



The Desertarian

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

The Desertarian
March 28, 2012

What a beautiful day in Palm Springs for our meeting today. We were served a very nice buffet featuring international cuisine with our favorite churros for dessert.

Meeting Convened: President **Mike Sellin** rang the meeting to order at 12:15 to allow our large crowd to visit and be seated.

Your humble narrator (**Jamey Canfield**) led the flag salute with the Pledge of Allegiance and we all joined together in reciting the 4-Way Test.

Mike Sellin introduced visiting Rotarians and guests. Don Dooley gets the distance prize for visiting us from St. Johns, Newfoundland. Fi McIntyre came all the way from Fairview, Alberta rounding out the Canadian contingent. We were also pleased to welcome Bob Puckett from Big Bear Lake, Roy Betzler from Paw Paw, Michigan and our split personality visitor, Richard Switzer, who was visiting from Richland/Gull Lake, Michigan and Gulf Shores, Alabama. Richard also exchanged two banners, one from each club. We also had two guests, Anita Gray and Les Cooper.

Announcements: President **Mike Sellin** thanked Jim Dunn and all of the volunteers who helped with the Craft beer Conclave on Saturday. Through their hard work, the club raised nearly \$2,000.00.

Birthday babies **Denise Ellis** and **Dan Keller** were recognized with a rousing inspired version of "Happy Birthday" to help them welcome in old age. They blushed.

Judy Bronstein reminded the club of the upcoming Rags event on Saturday. Thanks to all who have signed-up to help.

Milt Levinson read some nice thank-you notes from students at Cahuilla school that the club has helped. Jarvis was thankful for some new glasses and Renee appreciated the new thesaurus. Thanks to all of our members for positively affecting these kids lives.

Ted Coliri announced the upcoming Rotarians at Work day on April 28th. There are two important projects including the painting of a house for some needy seniors and a painting day at an Angel View house. Of course there will also be the obligatory ice cream social.

Jim Dunn let us know that **Norm Brown**'s wife has been released from the hospital and is in a convalescent care facility. Best wishes Berniece!!

This Weeks Program: Jeff Moritz, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley was our featured speaker. Habitat is an organization of over 2,000 affiliates world-wide dedicated to eliminating sub-standard housing. The local chapter is currently serving 32 families that have new homes. The program includes the provision of a home with a 30 year, 0.00 % interest loan which will provide deserving families an opportunity to have affordable housing. Selected families must be financially responsible for the mortgage and also contribute 200 hours of “sweat equity” to be eligible. The local chapter covers the area from blithe to the pass and is facing financial challenges due to state and local budget challenges. There are many ways to help support Habitat including shopping at their surplus building material store at 39500 Gateway Drive in Palm Desert, volunteering to assist with construction or providing financial support..

Recognition: **Karl Kruger**, the newest member of the recognition team handled fining today. As a long-term Rotarian, Karl added some traditional Rotary twists to the fining session. These included birthday fines for Denise (Dan snuck out) and a special \$5.00 assessment for not wearing a Rotary pin. **Ed Ellis, Jim Griffes, Art Snow, Jacqui Wachs, Jamey Canfield, Milt Levinson and Tim Ellis** were all victims of a hearty fining session. I think Karl has started a new trend.

Happy Dollars: Lots of happy people today! **Denise Ellis, and Jim Dunn**, offered dollars to the basket.

Marble Game: In a repeat performance, **Judy Bronstein** had the winning ticket number 353089 and won \$32.00. Unfortunately, Judy left \$753.00 in the bag when she drew a green marble. Apparently green is only good in M&M's. Better luck next time!

Next Meeting (April 4): Next week's speaker will be Paul Zeller from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. Hopefully he won't have a pocket full of arrest warrants! Your humble narrator will be handling the recognition portion of the meeting so watch out Karl!!.

Guest Editor: Jamey Canfield