



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

Desertarian for April 18, 2012

President-elect **Dr. Denise Ellis** presided over today's meeting, since prez **Mike Sellin** was celebrating his wedding anniversary in Las Vegas. We all wish you and your lovely wife a hearty congratulations, Mike! **Ed Ellis** (no relation to either **Denise Ellis** or **Tim Ellis**) led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Dr. Dan Keller** leading us in the 4-Way Test of the Things that Rotarians Think, Say, and Do.

We had one visiting Rotarian - Dow Dooley from St. Johns, Newfoundland. And sadly, we'll have to say "so long" to our wonderful sojourner, **Charlie House**. Hurry back, Charlie! Special guests were introduced by **Frank Peabody** (Anita Gay), **Jacque Wachs** (Dave Johnson), **Milt Levinson** (Frank Clement), and **Christine Cross** (Delaney Serfling).

Dr. Helene Kalfuss introduced Palm Springs High School junior Anthony Castrodale. Anthony was the Palm Springs Evening Star club's selection to attend this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event. He shared his outstanding experiences at this great leadership camp and emphasized what a life-changing experience that it was for him. As a result of his enthusiasm and popularity among the other 350+ high school juniors, Anthony was voted "most likely to be a RYLA alumnus next year". Anthony was interviewed by **Mike Brill** and **David Allen**, and his selection proved to be 100% a correct one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The spaghetti dinner, held the evening of April 20 as a "carb load" in support of Mayor Steve Pougnet's "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" was a tremendous success. Chefs **Carol Brill** and **Christine Cross** prepared a delicious vegetarian spaghetti feast. Part of the proceeds will benefit our club foundation. Many thanks to our Interact group, **Judy Bronstein**, **Jim Dunn**, **Jacque Wachs**, and **Mike Sellin** for their assistance.
- Christine also emphasized the Rotary International Foundation's "Every Rotarian Every Year" goal. Our club has historically had 100% of its members donate every year, and there are only a very few "hold outs" remaining this year. Christine recognized **Jacque Wachs**, **Bob Barrett**, **Dr. Dan Keller**, and **Thomas Smith** for their recent donations.
- **Jim Dunn** introduced Cliff Young, who was the promoter for this year's inaugural Beer Conclave. Our club members' assistance with this event resulted in a sizeable donation to our local club foundation.
- Upcoming events include a service project for Well of the Desert on 5/12/12, and **Mike Sellin's** demotion extravaganza on 6/30/12.

OUR PROGRAM

Dr. Denise Ellis introduced **Mitch Blumberg**, the Deputy Executive Director of Desert Arc, and a member of the Palm Desert Rotary. Desert Arc is one of the largest and oldest (53 years) non-profit agencies based in the Coachella Valley. It provides social services, vocational training and employment

opportunities for 600 developmentally disabled adults from its central campus at Monterey and Country Club in Palm Desert, its satellite campus in Yucca Valley, and its new recycling operation in Indio.

Mr. Blumberg stressed the close ties that its clients have with many Coachella Valley institutions, such as both Eisenhower and Desert Regional medical centers, COSTCO, WalMart, many area golf courses, Joshua Tree National Park, and several other businesses. They also provide fulfillment and distribution services at their main campus for companies such as Time Warner. Their fleet of vehicles rivals Sun Bus, with 27 large busses and 18 vans.

OTHER TIDBITS

Recognition was conducted by the one, the only, DR. IQ (AKA PDG **Milt Levinson**). Milt queried our learned Rotarians on various articles in the April edition of *The Rotarian* magazine, and he extracted "donations" from **Dr. Dan Keller, Dr. David Alderman, Bob Barrett, Bob Elsner** (AKA "Heckler In Chief), **Jamey Canfield, Dick Hostrop, Mike Brill, Thomas Smith, Jacque Wachs, Art Snow, Dr. Helene Kalfuss, Judy Bronstein, and Karl Krueger** (WHEW!). Happy dollars flowed from **Dr. Denise Ellis, Mike Brill, Bob Elsner, Art Snow**, and our RYLA Superstar - Anthony Castrodale.

Today's "marble game" was won by (OMG) **Mike Brill**, who pocketed \$33, but Mike picked a heliotrope marble instead of the black one - so next week's jackpot should exceed \$860!

Some of you may have missed the April 11th edition of *The Desertarian*, due to a "glitch" in our "Club Runner" software provider. If you did miss your copy, it's posted on our club's web site www.therotaryclubofpalmsprings.org.

Have a great week!

Mike Brill

Desertarian Editor