



# **The Desertarian**

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

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS Desertarian for May 9, 2012**

Welcome back, President **Mike Sellin**. We're so happy to learn that you have recovered from your recent illness. Opening our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance was soon-to-be-inducted **Anita Gray**, followed by **Bob Elsner** leading us in the 4-Way Test of the Things That Rotarians (including Bob) think, say and do.

Visiting Rotarians included Sheryl Silver (Palm Springs Evening Star); George Witts (Dallas, TS); and Bob Haunschild (Hemet Sunrise, Ca). **Mike Brill** introduced his special guest Dr. Judy Kairath.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Assistant District Governor Sheryl Silver is chairing a district committee to increase public awareness of Rotary. The featured event to help accomplish this goal is our district-wide effort to provide **One Million Meals to our Local Communities!** She is requesting one member from all District 5330 clubs to be part of this important event. For more information, call Sheryl at [760-285-1525](tel:760-285-1525), or you may e-mail her at [psHiHoSilver@aol.com](mailto:psHiHoSilver@aol.com).
- **Jim Griffes** asked for volunteers on Saturday, May 12, at 6:00 a.m., to assist with the distribution of food at the Well of the Desert distribution center, 181 N. Indian Canyon.
- **Christine Cross** reminded everyone about the wine tasting and potluck party and going away party for Rotary Peace Scholar Michele Mician. This fun event will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, at the Cross' home - 38760 Maracaibo Circle, Palm Springs. RSVP to [760-322-1961](tel:760-322-1961)
- **Tim Ellis**, president of the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, shared the news that the gynomous Marilyn Monroe statue will be unveiled on Thursday, May 24, 6:00 p.m., at the corner of Tahquitz Canyon and Palm Canyon drives.
- **Jim Dowler** presented a check to our local foundation for an additional \$1541.70, further proceeds from our recent beer conclave.
- **Judy Bronstein**, chair of this year's Angel View Prom, reminded everyone that the prom will be held at the Demuth Community Center on June 2. She reiterated that this inspirational event is among the highlights of our Rotary year, and everyone is encouraged to attend.
- The date of this year's "demotion" of president **Mike Sellin**, accompanied by the installation of incoming president **Dr. Denise Ellis** and her board, has changed to June 23, at our regular meeting place in the Spa Hotel.

### **INSTALLATION**

Sponsor **Jamey Canfield** accompanied inductee **Anita Gray** to the lectern, where **Frank Peabody** inducted her into our club. Anita spent 30 years with Raytheon, much of which involved community service. **WELCOME ANITA!**

**OUR PROGRAM:** **Denise Ellis** introduced today's guest speaker, Alison Elsner (daughter of our own Bob, of course - ain't nepotism grand?). Alison is the Executive Director and CEO of United Way of the Desert. She is heavily involved in the community through the USC (who knew?) Alumni Club of the Desert and former member of the USC Board of Governors. She is a former appointee of the Palm Springs Parks and Recreation Commission, a current member of the CBS Local-2 Advisory Board, and she writes several columns a year for the *Desert Sun* newspaper.

Alison presented a comprehensive overview of the United Way, the many needy organizations that it benefits, and the struggles with today's economy vis-à-vis donations. She fielded several questions, and we learned among other things that only 12% of donations go toward administration; the rest going to the numerous worthwhile organizations that it benefits.

#### **OTHER TIDBITS**

**Jamey Canfield** was today's "finemaster", and he extracted donations from **Dr. Dan Keller, Tim Ellis, Bob Barrett, Jacque Wachs, and Jim Dunn**. Happy dollars flowed from **Rev. Jim Griffes, Norm Brown, Mike Brill, Dave Allen, and Mike Sellin**.

Winning today's "marble game" was **Dr. Denise Ellis**, who had to leave early and left her tickets with **Mike Brill**. Denise won \$26, but Mike couldn't find the black marble. Next week's jackpot should exceed \$950!

Happy Mother's Day and have a great week!

Mike Brill

Desertarian Editor