



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS Desertarian for May 16, 2012

Lots of empty chairs today, as many of our snowbirds have headed north. To all of you - we miss you and look forward to your return in the fall!

Our meeting opened with the Rev. **Jim Griffes** leading us in the salute to our flag, followed by newly-inducted member **Anita Gray** fulfilling one of her "red badge" requirements by leading the 4-way Test of the Things We Rotarians Think, Say, and Do.

Visiting Rotarians included Jay Hatfield (La Jolla Golden Triangle, CA) and Khurshed Sharifov (Columbia Center, Kennewick, WA). **Mike Brill** introduced special guest Jeff Rosenberg, and **Jim Dowler** introduced his special guest, Dr. Ginny Vu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President **Mike Sellin** read a letter from the lady whose mobile home was painted by fellow Rotarians during Rotary at Work Day. She thanked these Rotarians profusely for providing a metamorphosis in her home's appearance.
- A huge thank you to those who volunteered at the Well of the Desert's food distribution efforts on May 12. Rotarians included **Jim Griffes, Jamey Canfield, Jim Dunn and Anita Gray**.
- **Jim Dunn** 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)
- **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. Her final committee meeting will be at her home on Wednesday, May 23, at 5:15 p.m.

INDUCTION

Mike Brill's lovely wife Carol was called to the podium by President **Mike Sellin**, where she was inducted as an honorary Rotarian for her continued contributions to many of our Rotary functions.

OUR PROGRAM: Today's speaker was the inimitable Betty Clark Mong. Betty has graced our club with her presence several times over the past years. Born in 1921, she suffered from juvenile arthritis as an infant, which left her sightless. Through the years she overcame this handicap through dedication, optimism, and a willingness to succeed. She received two corneal transplants in 1989, at the age of 68, and she was blessed with sight. Tragically, a fall down a flight of stairs six months later again robbed her of her vision. She has provided motivational talks throughout the country, and she has been honored by Rotary and Lions Clubs as well as Betty Ford and President Ronald Reagan.

Betty shared her thoughts on the art of caring, and what she calls the importance of three pieces of luggage throughout one's journeys: (1) Hope for the future, (2) Faith with unquestioning hope and no doubts, and (3) Trust. She fielded several questions from our attendees and signed a book to be presented to students at Cahuilla Elementary School.

OTHER TIDBITS

Tim Ellis was today's recognition "guru", and since almost everyone has fulfilled his/her initial pledge, he changed the format to a one dollar fine. His numerous questions revolved around Marilyn Monroe, in honor of her 34,300 pound 26 foot presence on the corner of Tahquitz Canyon and Palm Canyon Drives. Attempting to answer his many questions were **Karl Kruger, Jacque Wachs, and Nancy Palmer**. Tim also fined himself for the major publicity her received for his role in bringing Marilyn to the Desert. Happy Rotarians donating "happy dollars" included **Jacque Wachs, Judy Bronstein, Bob Allan, Jim Griffes, Frank Peabody, Anita Gray, and Milt Levinson**.

Bob Allan pocketed \$20 for having the winning ticket to the "Marble Game", but the \$960 prize is still awaiting someone to find the black marble (12 left, I believe).

Have a great week!
Mike Brill
Desertarian Editor