



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

Desertarian for May 23, 2012

Our meeting room was filled with joy and enthusiasm today as we welcomed members of our incredible Palm Springs High School Interact Club's 2011 - 2012 Board of Directors:

- President Jonathan Phung
- Vice President Mithun Mahinda
- Secretary Robbie Towner
- Treasurer Cathy Forero
- Special Events Emily Meyers (granddaughter of our own **Dick Hostrop**)
- Historian Hannah Rolak

Also gracing our meeting by their presence were Palm Springs High School Principal Ricky Wright, PSUSD Publicity Director Joan Boiko, Raymond Cree Middle School counselor Michele Valenzuela, and several bright, enthusiastic PRYDE participants. These participants exuded enthusiasm as they described their great leadership experiences attending this year's PRYDE program.

Our meeting was run entirely by the Interact Board. VP Mahinda led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Interact Liaison **Judy Bronstein** attempted the 4-way test, counting 1, 2, 4, and 5 (what happened to "3" is anybody's guess).

Visiting Rotarians were introduced: Rajendra and Shanta Mehta (Sertaozinho Apareci DA, Brazil) and Joachim Mohn (Munich, Germany).

PSHS Ricky Wright presented a summary of the wonderful accomplishments of this year's graduating class, citing that their overall academic standing was the highest it has been in 15 years! He glowed when he shared that whenever "his kids" traveled throughout the country and world representing Palm Springs High School, he always received kudos regarding their manners, citizenship and deportment. This year's graduation rate is 95%, with approximately 60% of the graduates heading for a 2- or 4-year college program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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.
- **Christine Cross**, this year's Rotary International Foundation Chair, announced that our club had now achieved 100% of our members donating this year! GREAT job, Christine and fellow club members!!

OTHER TIDBITS

Interact President Jonathan Phung was today's "Finemaster", and he extracted "donations" from **PDG Milt Levinson, Jamey Canfield, Frank Peabody, Bob Allan, Judy Bronstein, Jacque Wachs, Mike Brill, Tim Ellis, Bob Barrett, and Mike Sellin.**

Happy Rotarians donating "happy dollars" included **PDG Helene Kalfuss** (who reported on her recent attendance at the 2012/2013 Rotary International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand), **Judy Bronstein, Rev. Jim Griffes, Karl Krueger, Dick Hostrop, Don Aikens, and Frank Peabody.**

Interact board members proudly shared their many accomplishments this year: Change the Clock/Change the Battery, assisting at the Angel View Prom (their favorite activity of the year), Whitewater cleanup, Bowling for Polio, and donation of funds for the shelter box program. An ambitious goal for the coming year will be to paint the Palm Springs High School football stadium's seats!

Dr. Denise Ellis pocketed \$36 for having the winning ticket to the "Marble Game", but the \$9980 prize is still awaiting someone to find the black marble (11 left).

Have a great week!
Mike Brill
Desertarian Editor