



# **The Desertarian**

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

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS *Desertarian* for September 12, 2012**

Another gorgeous (aka hot) day in Palm Springs as president **Dr. Denise Ellis** opened today's meeting. She asked **Nancy Palmer** (welcome back!) to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Art Snow** had the honor of reciting the 4-Way Test of the Things that we Rotarians think, say or do.

**Bob Allan** introduced visiting Rotarians Gillian Cross and Ron Sellin from the Cathedra ICity club. Special guests included Sally Mahoney, the golf pro at the O'Donnell golf course. And a HUGE WELCOME BACK to **Chuck Cheeld** and his long-time care giver Gary Bowman, and Jan Moss with her stately and beautiful standard poodle service dog.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Bob Allan** read a thank you note from the 2nd grader "Trojan Class" at Cahuilla Elementary School. Bob had donated a "Tommy Trojan" golf head cover to the class that he reads to.
- **Tim Ellis** updated us on the funding for the Hanson House. Supplementing our club's donation to purchase new beds, Tim's "arm twisting" resulted in private donations that allowed these beds to be purchased. Tim also shared that he had contacted Sysco, the giant food distributor, who will assist with replenishing local food banks as a part of our District's Million Meals program.

### **INDUCTION**

Welcome to our newest member - **Dr. Jenny Vu**! Jenny was previously a member of the MorenoValley club. She recently opened a second optometry practice in Palm Springs, and she made the decision to transfer her membership to our wonderful club. Jenny's sponsor was **Jim Dowler**, and the induction was done by **Frank Peabody**.

### **TODAY'S PROGRAM - Former Palm Springs Mayor Will Kleindienst**

Mayor Kleindienst was introduced by **Jim Dunn**. The talk centered on the history of the O'Donnell Golf Course. In order to put this historic course in perspective, Mayor Kleindienst provided an in-depth biography of its founder, Thomas O'Donnell. The presentation was filled with anecdotes about this scion in the oil industry, and his close association with early Palm Springs pioneers such as Nellie Coffman. The mayor, who is closely affiliated with the Palm Springs Historical Society, brought an incredible visual aid - a panoramic photo view of the area below the famous O'Donnell home. This photo was provided by our own **John Allen**. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

### **OTHER TIDBITS**

**Bob Elsner** was in rare (rather than well-done) form as today's finemaster. He extracted "donations" from **Thomas Smith, Bill Lentz, Dr. David "bashful" Alderman, Dr. Helene Kalfuss, Chuck Cheeld, Mike Sellin, Don Aikens, and Jim Dunn**. Lots of Happy Dollars today from **Chuck Cheeld, Art Snow, Mike Brill, Jim Dunn, Frank Peabody, John Craig, Ed Ellis, Bill Lentz, Don Aikens, Dr. Jenny Vu**, and our guest speaker Will Kleindienst.

Congratulations to **Bill Lentz** for drawing the black marble today! I know of a great place in the Cayman Islands to park your winnings!

Have a great week!

Mike Brill

Desertarian Editor