



The Desertarian

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

Desertarian September 26, 2012

President Denise called the meeting to order with **Jacque Wachs** leading the Pledge, **Jim Dowler**, the 4 Way Test, **Bob Barrett** with the inspirational thought, and **Dr. Dan Keller** introducing Visiting Rotarians and guests.

Frank Peabody re-inducted **John Craig** after just over a one year leave. **John** is continuing his education by earning his Masters in Homeland Security. Welcome back, **John**!

President Ellis, then, declared that today shall be dedicated to our good friend and Rotarian **Jim Dowler**. It is with heavy heart that we learned **Jim** is moving to Arizona and Big Bear...BUT we are happy for him and **Marcia** in their new adventures. **Past President Jim** has been an outstanding Rotarian for 21 years. He has been our local Rotary Foundation President for the several years, a prime mover of the Palm Springs USO, Club chair every year for the Tour d' Palm Springs, creator of the Hungarian GSE and International project with the new Hungarian District in Romania just to name a few. He manifests Service Above Self! **Dr. Helene Kalfuss**, **Councilwoman Ginny Foat**, and **President Denise** presented Jim with well-deserved accommodations. Keep in touch, Jim...and have great fun with your 'bucket list'! Thanks **Jim Dunn** and **Helene** for putting together a stellar recognition for **Mr. "Ukulele" Dowler**.

Our speaker, **Joel Kinnamon**, President of College of the Desert, brought us up to date on the developments and challenges of COD. The East Campus is under construction, the West Campus is on the drawing boards, and there's new construction of a math/science building at the Palm Desert campus. We learned COD serves over 10,000 students in a time when funds are being reduced and the student population is growing. He requested support of Prop 30 this coming November which will give COD much needed funding. Thank you **Joel**, and, good luck in your new position.

Bill Lenz then quizzed us on COD. I got side tracked and didn't list who got fined BUT...several were listening up to **Joel** and actually answered correctly! Many Happy Dollars were gathered from **Elsner**, **Allan**, **Peabody**, **Dowler**, **Cheeld** + a few others. **Christine Cross** (freshly back from Ireland) won the raffle but missed the big black marble. Awwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww!

Next week, **Shab Elawar**, from the San Bernardino Morning Rotary Club, will share his experience with the Thousand Smiles Program. You may remember **Shab** was "Mr. Polio Plus", raising huge \$\$\$ for that worthy cause. If we're lucky, he will bring his lovely wife, **Bricia**...always a breath of fresh air! Have a good week. Farewell, our friend forever, **Jim**.

Guest Editor, Peabody, here for Editor in Chief, Mike Brill