



# **The Desertarian**

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

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS Desertarian for October 17, 2012**

Did someone say that it would be cool mid-October in Palm Springs?? Well, that 95 degrees is a dry heat, so we're good, right? Anyway, leading the salute to our flag was David Gray (Anita's other half), and **Stewart Cross** led us in three of the four things that Rotarians think, say or do. Remembering Rotarian stalwart PDG Jeff Williams with a special prayer, Rev. **Jim Griffes** provided an inspirational moment. R. I. P., Jeff - your leadership, inspiration, and dedication to the principles of Rotary will never be forgotten.

**Mike Brill** introduced visiting Rotarians PDG Jack Horner (Indio Sunrise) and Gene Ground (Waikiki, HI). Guests included retired teacher Kathy Liss (**Denise Ellis**), Angel View Executive Director David Thornton, Mel Haber, David Gray (**Anita Gray**), Dottie Griffes (Rev. **Jim Griffes**), and Steve Baller (**Bob Barrett**).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please make every effort to attend the Rotary International Foundation meeting, which will be held at the Red Robin restaurant in La Quinta at 6:30 p.m., October 19th. Come early for dinner at 5:30 p.m. if you wish.
- District Governor **Jean Easum** will visit our club on November 14, and maximum attendance is encouraged.
- District 5330's conference will be held at the Doral Resort in Cathedral City on October 26 - 28. Sign-up sheets are available at our meeting.
- November 3 is our annual "Change your clocks, change your smoke detector batteries" event. **John Allen** is in charge of this event, so please contact him to donate your time to this very worthwhile event.
- We'll have a gala Thanksgiving pot-luck event on November 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The address is 1111 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs. **Margie Taft** will be in attendance to conduct our über-fun dice game. Please see **Nancy Palmer** to sign up and indicate the food item(s) that you will bring. The turkey, ham, and other fixin's are already taken care of.
- **Christine Cross** reminded us that November is Rotary International Foundation month. Our goal is \$250 per member, but any amount is welcome so that we can continue our long tradition of "EREY" (Every Rotarian, Every Year) giving. Christine gave special mention to those of our members who have generously donated this year: **Denise Ellis, Milt Levinson, Karl Kruger, Art Snow, Frank Peabody, Stewart Cross, and Christine Cross.**

### **TODAY'S PROGRAM - MICHELE MICIAN -ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP**

Michele was introduced by **Christine Cross**. She received a designation in 2006 as one of Rotary's Global Study Exchange team members to Japan, and she participated in a Friendship Exchange for Peace in Thailand in 2008. She just returned from a three-month Rotary Peace Fellow Certification Program at

Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Her current vocation is as the sustainability manager for the City of Palm Springs.

Michele thanked our club and Rotary International for her opportunity to participate in this program that stresses peace and conflict resolution. She was part of a group of 22 international professionals. She spent many intense hours participating in classes conducted by world-renowned psychologists and similar professionals. During her visit, she toured many areas of Thailand and Cambodia. Particularly touching was her description of the horrendous events that transpired from 1975 to 1979 under the infamous Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. During this regime, almost two thirds of Cambodia's population was brutally murdered. Michele visited a sobering killing field near the capital of Phnom Penh, and the notorious S21 prison, which is now a museum depicting the horrors of a holocaust that is beyond one's imagination. Her current efforts stress an edible landscape program. i.e., having homes and businesses plant and harvest fruits and vegetables, which will help with local food production.

### **OTHER TIDBITS**

PDG **Dr. Helene Kalfuss**, one of the longest-term board members of Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation, introduced Executive Director Dave Thornton. Dave expressed his extreme gratitude for all that our Rotary club has done for Angel View, stressing in particular the Angel View Prom and the individual efforts provided to several Angel View residences during Rotarians at Work day. To show Angel View's appreciation, Dave distributed beautiful ball point pens, each decorated with a floral bouquet, to all Rotarians in attendance.

**Bob Elsner**, today's fine master, tailored his questions to Thailand and Southeast Asia. Donating to the cause were **Jacque Wachs, Helene Kalfuss, Mike Brill, Jamey Canfield, Jim Griffes, Anita Gray, Bob Barrett, John Glenn, Nancy Palmer, and Thomas Smith.**

Happy Dollars were donated by **Mike Brill, David Thornton, Christine Cross, Art Snow, Judy Bronstein, Jim Griffes, and Anita Gray.**

**Christine Cross's** ticket was drawn for today's marble game, but she picked a red marble instead of the elusive black one.

Have a great week!  
Mike Brill  
Desertarian Editor