



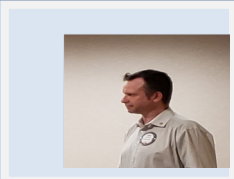
The Desertarian

The Newsletter for the Rotary Club of Palm Springs,



September 16, 2020

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month



President John Fitch

President: John Fitch, **President-Elect:** Paul Raffer, **Secretary:** Ed McBride, **Treasurer:** VACANT
Board Members: Bob Allan, Victoria Bentley, Judy Bronstein, Tim Ellis (Ex-officio), Doris Halftermeyer-Ross, Helene Kalfuss, Barbara Lippert, Andrea Madrigal, Michele Nobleman, Frank Peabody, Paul Raffer
District Governor: Barry Valdez
Desertarian Reporters: Frank Peabody, Barbara Lippert, Jim Dunn, Nandy Kruger



This Weeks Program

Deserterian Reporter: Barbara Lippert

Dr. Victoria Bentley was our awesome speaker and she started her work in Africa in 2005 and continued till 2015. She shared the horrific conditions for women and children and the effects of the war. Congo is rich in much needed minerals that we need for our technology to survive on continues to be a battlefield. The woman fled to safety after repeated atrocities with rape as a continual war practice, Victoria was called to offer her services and after finding out their needs she came home and started fund raising.

While there, she started a factory with sewing machines to help the women start making money. She then with the help of her Rotary Club in Montecito CA sent 100 of kids to school and got them and their mothers medical assistant. At the same time Victoria helped start a Rotary Club there to help distribute the money she raised. The goal is to help these mothers and children. She then hooked up with Amani Matabaro and his charities. With the help of Rotary he built reservoirs giving them clean water. They also built schools, also provided the families with goats and taught them how to grow vegetables and provide food. Victoria's Rotary Club also brought supplies and materials to make dolls that they sold and it help them build a future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michelle announced a successful blood drive and reminded us of Coins for Kids!
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Birthdays and Anniversaries for September

Member Anniversaries	Start Date	Years
Barrett, Robert (ROBERT)	9/4/02	18
Peabody, Frank E. (FRANK)	9/15/99	21
Birthdays	Birthday	
No Birthdays		
Wedding Anniversaries	Date	
No anniversaries		

This Weeks Program (Continued)

Victoria went around speaking at different Rotary Clubs to raise \$25,000. and was able to build more schools and get the supplies including sewing machines to help them survive. Victoria shared a wonderful coping skill called tapping which helped them to release all the trauma. Victoria continued helping them create a bakery and a home for teen mothers previously abused to help them raise healthy children and learn a profession. She also helped build the community center and was so influential to start, manage and continue the center and it is still standing. They still need help with training for the woman and sanitation as well as programs to help these children once they graduate.

Helene suggested we talk to our governor about bringing a training group to the Congo.

Frank Peabody was one of our Vocational speakers and was an inspiration. Frank celebrated his 21st Rotary anniversary on the 15th!

