



# Rotary Club of La Quinta

Service Above Self since 1985



## Happy Spring Meeting!



**On April 11, 2024, at 6 PM, La Quinta Rotarians, along with their spouses, guests, visitors, and friends gathered together at the PGA West GREG NORMAN Clubhouse and enjoyed an evening filled with FUN, Laughter and Good Times!**



**Lora Cathcart, daughter Katie Zapcart and David Turner at the Greeting table**

**Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating the arrival of Spring together on this evening with our PERFECT Desert weather happening now.**

Rotarians and guests arrived to find the room was set with three tables of 10 all decked out in fine linens highlighted by floral centerpieces. Our speaker PDG Helene A. Kalfuss was greeted with 2 dozen assorted roses, an “All you need is love... and coffee” coffee mug, a bag of Guatemalan Coffee (courtesy of Dick and Helen Anderson) and a RCLQ Keepsake.



Kimberly McKinney's Guest Michelle Odland shown here with David Turner and Brett Anderson

After about 20 minutes of socializing and availing themselves of the libations available at the bar, those in attendance stood as President Bruce Cathcart called the meeting to order and directed everyone's attention to the big screen where there was a new photo of the American Flag that was submitted by Doug Hassett. He then had Doug lead us in the salute to our flag.





**President Bruce gave the invocation expressing special thanks for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us while celebrating the “arrival of Spring” and rejoicing in the knowledge that as Rotarians we are making a positive impact in our own community and around the world! He made mention of how fortunate we all were having with us Past Distirct Governor Dr. Helene Kalfuss and her husband Dr. Leonard Kalfuss whose dedication to Rotary and their “Service Above Self” is an inspiration to us all!**



**Next president Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our visiting Rotarians, he introduced the Rotary Club of La Quinta’s original “POWER COUPLE” Dick and Helen Anderson who were visiting from their home in Maine where they are now members of an E-Club. Then Bruce introduced our Rotary Royalty in the house, Dr.’s Leonard and Helene Kalfuss. Working his way around the room, next came Dr. Rick Gross (our long-time, good friend from Germany) who introduced his beautiful wife Ebba, Allan Levin introduced his beautiful wife Barbara and then he introduced our good friends and now “Special Guests” according to their new name tags... John Nottberg and his beautiful wife Gail. Then Kimberly McKinney introduced her special guest Michelle Odland (newly arrived in the valley and Kimberly’s new neighbor in Bermuda Dunes). Next president Bruce introduced our Interact Faculty Advisor and fellow Rotarian Frank Ceja (from the Coachella Valley Rotary Club) who introduced two of our RYLA Camp students, the Interact Club Vice President Ben Martinez and the Club’s Treasurer Angel Medina. David Turner then introduced his beautiful wife Paula, Dan Fissori introduced his beautiful wife TC, Brett Anderson introduced his beautiful wife Colleen, and finally, Lora Cathcart proudly introduced her beautiful**

children Jim Cathcart and Katie Zapcart. Sandy Lauer and Doug Hassett rounded out our group for this evening.



Following the new format, dinner was served with the announcements and meeting fun to follow.



Our meals are served “Buffet Style” (which makes seconds easy to obtain!). Tonight’s Italian buffet started with an Antipasto Potato Salad with Artichoke hearts, potatoes, tomatoes, salami, broccolini, shaved red onions, olives and Italian dressing and a Caesar Salad with Caesar dressing.





**Next came the delicious White Bean Italian Minestrone Soup with white beans, green beans, carrots, celery, onions, butternut squash and tomatoes. Our vegetable this evening was an amazing Roasted Garlic Broccolini... so simple, but I could have eaten a whole plate of it! And of course we had to have some cheesy bread sticks to stir our soup with!!!**



**Our entrée included two kinds of pasta, a Pesto Creamy Cheese Tortellini Pasta and a Linguini Bolognese Pasta which were both delicious and for dessert we had mini-Churros (or Churritos as Allan called them) with both a caramel and chocolate dipping sauce which took the Churritos to the next level... one bite was worth the risk of getting a cavity! It was another GREAT meal and testament to the culinary skills of our Chef Lulu! Once again, our highest praise and compliments to you, Chef Lulu.**



About the time when everyone was just finishing up their desserts, president Bruce stepped back up to the microphone and took the opportunity to welcome everyone again and thank Araceli, Chef Lulu, and tonight's serving staff for the magnificent meal we enjoyed and for all that they do to make our dinner events so special here each month at the Greg Norman Clubhouse. Thank you Araceli for your extra effort... we really appreciate all that you do for us!

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **May 9, 2024**, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where the Guest Speaker will be Tracey Brown whose topic will be "How we can be more productive in business and life through mental fitness and physical fitness". More on this in upcoming flyers. **[Please save the date now so when you are asked "Are you doing anything on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>?" You can say, "YES! that's my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!"]**



## SERVING AT THE MISSION



Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is Thursday evening, April 18, 2024, from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. If interested in helping out, contact President Bruce for more information on how you can participate (or just show up at 4:15 at the mission). Serving the evening meal at the mission is really a fun and gratifying thing to do. Our reserved night to serve is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month... but if there are more folks who would like to serve on a regular basis we can always add days to our schedule. It only takes about an hour and a half, but the good feeling lasts all month! Again, if interested, contact President Bruce.

Our next Lunch/Board meeting will be on April 26, 2024, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).

## Saturday April 6, 2024 - Rotary District 5330 Club Leader and Member Assembly



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Bruce then gave everyone an update on the recent District 5330 Club Leader and Member Assembly that took place on April 6, 2024, at Tahquitz High School in Hemet. It was a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary by attending several classes on everything from Fundraisers to Grants to the duties of Club Secretaries and Treasurers. Bruce strongly encouraged club members to consider attending this assembly next year!



## City of La Quinta Birthday Party and Picnic April 27, 2024 set up 8 AM, Serving 9 AM til Noon



**ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY , SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024**



It's almost time again for the City of La Quinta's Birthday Celebration and annual Picnic event! Our club will be continuing our 30+ years tradition of providing, cooking and serving almost 1,000 Hot Dogs to the hungry citizens of La Quinta at this event. This coincides with our Rotarians at Work weekend and is a great opportunity to meet and greet the public and share with them all the great "Service above Self" our club and Rotary International does in our community and around the world! President Bruce announced that all items have been purchased (including new club banners) and our club is **READY TO GO!** This year we will be joined by our Interactors and so Bruce promised to bring lots of chairs for our members to sit and enjoy "supervising" more than working this year!!!

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - Rotary Night at the Firebirds Hockey Game at the Acrisure Arena

## Valleywide Rotary Clubs Pre-Game Mixer



Next President Bruce updated everyone on the Firebirds Hockey Game and valley wide Rotary Club Mixer that took place on March 20, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. It was a GREAT SUCCESS, and several Club members were in attendance to meet and enjoy the company of other Rotarians from clubs throughout the Coachella Valley. Our District Governor Jamie Zinn was present and gave a short speech praising the Clubs of the Coachella Vally for all the good work that we do here in our own community and around the world through the Rotary Foundation. Also spotted in the crowd were our good friends ADG Bill Chase and EADG Carol Winston!



## COACHELLA VALLEY DERBY GIRLS



## Palm Springs Air Museum

Jim "Crashcart", the voice of the Coachella Valley Derby Girls (CVDG) took the mic and shared with the group that their first home game of the season that took place on March 30, 2024, at 7:30 PM at the Palm Springs Air Museum resulted in the Girls first victory 180 to 80 over the Prison City Roller Derby! President Bruce then shared that several members attended the bout including both he and Lora, Allan Levin and Brett and Collen Anderson. All agreed that it was a great time (only \$10 and bring your own lawn chair/seat). Our club is still exploring the possibility of a Rotary Night at the Roller Derby and even a joint fund-raiser with the Derby Girls!

## • LA QUINTA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK INTERVIEWS

- Spring Semester Interview Workshops at La Quinta H.S.:

- #1—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 PUBLIC SERV ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M
- #2—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 PUBLIC SERV ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M
- #3—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 CULINARY ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M
- #4—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 MEDICAL ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M
- #5-- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 MEDICAL ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

PLEASE REPLY TO [mrosen831@gmail.com](mailto:mrosen831@gmail.com) WITH YOUR PREFERENCE OF ONE OR MORE WORKSHOP(S) #1, # 2, #3, #4, #5.



Next President Bruce shared with everyone that the “Mock Interviews” at the La Quinta High School were taking place and that interested Rotarians (or guests) should contact Marc Rosen to schedule participating. Only one date is still available this year. This is a tremendous opportunity to work with the students in our community and to help them prepare for their job interviews in the future.



# IGNITE FESTIVAL 2024



## CLUB BOOTHS

**Invitation To Showcase Your Club at The Festival with A Club Booth.**

To make things interesting, we will have a contest with cash prizes for the best booths, which will be judged on décor, originality, and enthusiasm.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place \$300**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$200**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$100**

All this fun for just \$100 to register and participate.

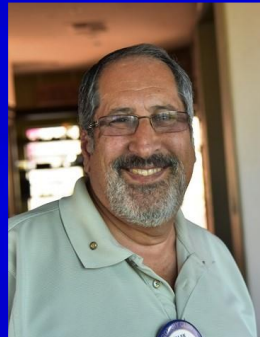
Please contact DMC Al Rubio for more detailed information.

[alrubiotemrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alrubiotemrotary@gmail.com) or (909) 730-0447

**ROTARY TEAM BBQ COMPETITION  
RIBS ONLY TO BE JUDEGED BY PDG'S  
\$50 ENTRY FEE, ONE TEAM PER CLUB**



Next President Bruce announced that the end of the year District Celebration was to take place on June 15, 2024, and that unlike any of the events in the past, this celebration would NOT take place in an upscale hotel ballroom, but rather it would be a weekend event taking place at Lake Skinner! In addition to all the amazing activities planned for this event, The Kansas City BBQ Society will be hosting a sanctioned National Team BBQ Competition. Attendees can come for one day or stay the whole weekend with campground/RV spaces available. There is a Rotary Club Showcase Booth competition... in which we will likely not participate. Why? Because we WILL be fielding a RCLQ BBQ Team to compete in the Rotary Club Only BBQ Rib competition!!! Our team is already registered, and anyone interested in attending the festival (and helping out on the BBQ Team) should contact President Bruce for more details (see also flyer above).

**Birthdays****Kevin Pickett****4/11****Paula Turner****4/13****Anniversaries****Bruce & Janet Underwood****4/19****Allan & Barbara Levin****4/25**

Next we celebrated Kevin Pickett's 76 trombones birthday in absentia, and everyone wished Paula Turner a very happy upcoming birthday. When her husband David was asked if he had anything planned for her birthday he casually remarked that they were off to Costa Rica to celebrate this coming weekend! Dr. Bruce and Allan were reminded of their upcoming anniversaries... just in case it had slipped their minds (You're welcome Janet and Barbara!). A little later in our program it was discovered that Kimberly's guest Michelle Odland had chosen to celebrate HER BIRTHDAY with us on this very night! And as EVERYONE knows, our club ONLY sings one song, and ONLY if a member or guest celebrates their birthday with us on the same day as our meeting... so, a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" commenced and it was in fact, shockingly GOOD. Thank you Doug Hasset for leading us in song and rounding out the flat notes for us!!!



~~DEMOTION PARTY~~

DEVOTION PARTY

JUNE 13, 2024



Since no one is being DEMOTED this year, instead of a Demotion Party we will have a DEVOTION PARTY which will coincide with our June Dinner Meeting. More details to follow in the months to come!



## MARCH WAS OUR "MAC ATTACK" DRIVE

Last August our club members and guests brought in 396 packages of Mac and Cheese items.



This year we managed to exceed that number by bringing in 401 Mac and Cheese items! Way to go La Quinta Rotarians!!!



President Bruce thanked everyone for participating in the “MAC ATTACK” Drive in March and for their generous donations! This month, together, we topped last August’s donations bringing in 401 items! This is really a fan favorite both at the mission and through their Outreach programs as these items are not only used at the mission itself, but they are also distributed to families in need across our valley and really make a positive impact on those less fortunate individuals right here in our own community!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA CVRM Partnership

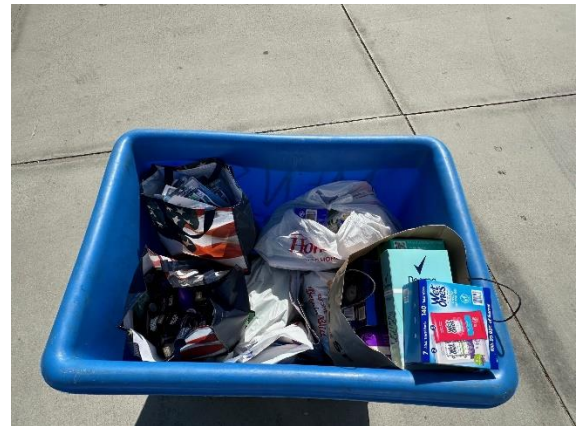
**APRIL IS OUR “TOILETRY” DRIVE**

This is one of our most important drives that furnish Hygiene Packets to both the mission and the homeless throughout our Valley!

**TOILETRY ITEMS NEEDED:**

- Shampoos
- Conditioners
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Hair Gel
- Body Lotion
- Toothpaste
- 6-Step
- Shampoo Cream
- Razors
- Feminine Products
- Eye Drops
- Beauty Products

Last April our club members and guests brought in a total of 405 items including everything from toothbrushes and toothpaste to razors, shampoos and so much more!



April was our annual “Toiletries” Drive for the Rescue Mission in which our members and guests were asked to bring in toiletry items that would be repacked into “Hygiene Packets” and distributed by the CVRM’s Outreach Teams to the homeless from Banning to Blythe. We did a GREAT JOB on this one last year bringing in 405 items. Our goal this month was to exceed that number. A final tally showed that this month we met our goal bringing in over 500 individual items!!! Way to go Rotary Club of La Quinta, your President is so proud of you!!!





Last year our club members and guests brought in 747 diapers!

## MAY IS OUR “BABY ESSENTIALS” DRIVE



This year we are hoping to exceed that number... although this year “wipes and formula” have been added to the CVRM’s wish list.



Next month (May) is our annual “BABY ESSENTIALS” DRIVE at the CVRM. This used to be our annual “DIAPER” DRIVE, but this year we are being asked to bring in Wipes and Formula as well as Diapers. It may be tough to beat last year’s total of 747 diapers... but I know our members and guests will their best. This drive benefits the youngest members in our community who really need our help.

## MARCH 2024 RYLA CAMP



## LA QUINTA HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB



Next President Bruce re-introduced Frank Ceja, our LQHS Interact Club Faculty Advisor who introduced two of our RYLA Students, the Interact Club Vice President Ben Martinez and the Club's Treasurer Angel Medina who had just returned from RYLA CAMP.



Ben and Angel each took a turn addressing the club and sharing their enthusiasm for Rotary and their experiences at RYLA, thanking both our club and the City of La Quinta for making it possible for them to have a "once in a lifetime opportunity" that "really expanded their minds and the way they think about other people and life in general"! Frank then invited any club members that might have the time



and interest to be a guest speaker at any of their meetings which occur every Tuesday on campus at around 1 PM. If interested, please contact President Bruce or Dan Fissori to make arrangements. It was apparent to all that Frank has done a marvelous job with these students and the restoration of the Interact Club.

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

Rotarian of the Month

APRIL Rotarian of the Month: SANDY LAUER



Thank You for your Service Above Self!

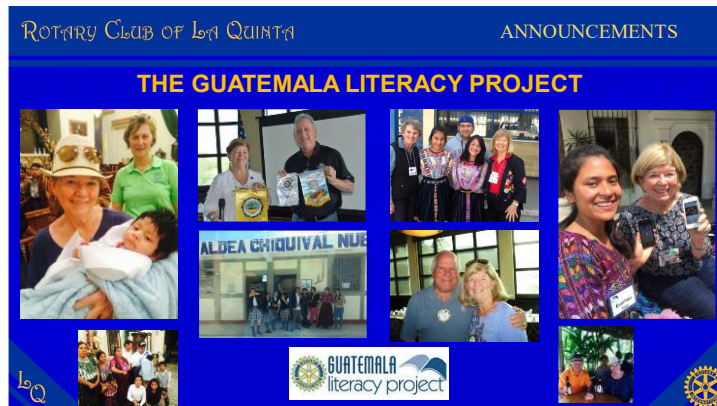
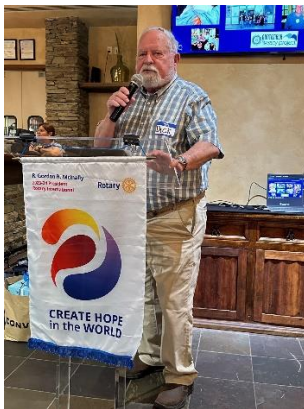
It was then time for President Bruce to name this month's Rotarian of the Month. Each ROM receives a special pin, certificate, and 100 Paul Harris Points.



President Bruce began, "This month's Rotarian of the month has been actively involved with our club for over 18 years. This individual is a Paul Harris Fellow has



participated in our charitable events and fundraisers... actually chairing several of our club's fundraising events including a golf tournament and our wine events. This individual is currently our club's International Service Chairperson and has always been there to support our club, and Rotary both financially, and with her "Service Above Self". Our Congratulations to Sandy Lauer, our Rotarian of the Month for April!



It turns out that one of President Bruce's surprises for this evening was the attendance of Dick and Helen Anderson. One of the many things that Dick and Helen did for our club while they were members was to introduce us to the Guatemala Literacy Project. Having been to Guatemala 18 times now and helping to establish the project, our club was extremely fortunate to have both Dick and Helen at our meeting this evening to give us an update on the project. They were both pleased to report that the project continues to be a GREAT SUCCESS helping over 300,000 Guatemalans to break the chain of illiteracy and poverty. It was a genuine treat for us all to see Dick and Helen and to "catch up" with them. They are GREAT Rotarians and even better friends!

Finally, Bruce asked, "Who's ready to get this party started?"



This month's Dinner Sponsor Package is the **"SPRING MARGARITA BASKET"**. It includes the PERFECT poolside margarita serving kit complete with platter, pitcher, 2 margarita glasses, chip bowl, plus Stirrings Margarita Rimmer cocktail garnish and a bottle of Jose Cuervo ready to drink margarita mix. Also included is a bottle of the **"2023 Tequila of the Year"** from JAJA (Ha-Ha) with 2 shot glasses! Plus 2 margarita bar towels, 1 jar each Tostitos salsa (mild, medium and hot), 1 bag of Mission tortilla chips, 1 pr. Santana Wireless Headphones (Bluetooth), 1 pr. Gardening gloves, 2 metallic hummingbird garden stakes, 1 hanging metallic garden butterfly, 1 **"Cup of Sunshine"** coffee mug and bag of ground **"Wake up Joe"** coffee, 1 **"Welcome to Paradise"** wall décor sign, two boxes **"Cookies with Love"** (Amaretti & Nonna Lemons) and a large wicker basket.



After a single card (half) was drawn from the top hat, all the “Dinner Sponsor Card” holders were asked to stand up. They were then, once again painfully and ever so slowly, asked to be seated for not holding the right color, suit, or number (or face card) until only one card holder remained standing... It came down to two participants, Katie Zapcart and our Interact Treasurer Angel Medina. It turns out that this night was FINALLY Katie’s night as she was our basket winner. Angel seemed pleased with the runner-up prize of a large jar M&M’s! Our congratulations to you Katie as well as our thanks for your generous support of the Dinner Sponsor Card program.

Next it was time for “Happy Dollars”. Happy Dollars is our MONTHLY FUNDRAISER and is what primarily supports our club. It gives everyone in attendance the opportunity to make a voluntary donation to the club and announce to the group something that they are happy about, knowing that all donations go to further the Rotary causes. Our Sargent-at-Arms Allan Levin resumed his duty carrying (not passing) the hat! Happy Dollars were collected around the room with best wishes for birthdays (Jim Cathcart 3/17, Katie Zapcart 5/1, Paula Turner 4/25, Michelle Odland 4/11) and anniversaries (Bruce and Janet Underwood and Allan and Barbara Levin), for the return visit of the Andersons, our Interact/Ryla Campers, for the Rotary Royalty in the room (Dr.s Leonard and Helene Kalfuss) and for the great comradery within our club.






As a club we also acknowledged the good times spent with Visiting Rotarian Dr. Rick Gross and his wife Ebba who were departing for home shortly after the meeting. We wished them safe travels and look forward to seeing them again next Fall.

Including the Dinner sponsor tickets our Rotarians and guests contributed almost \$700 this evening. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity!!!

**Guest Speaker: PDG HELENE A. KALFUSS Ph.D. April 11, 2024**



**PAST DISTRICT 5330 GOVERNOR 2006 -2007 AND  
PAST PRESIDENT PALM SPRINGS ROTARY CLUB**

**RECIPIENT OF:  
THE CITATION FOR MERITORIUS SERVICE (TRF)  
SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD (RI)  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (TRF)**

**Thank You Helene for your "Service Above Self"**



Finally, it was time for our program. President Bruce introduced our Club's Rotary Foundation Chairman Dr. Bruce Underwood who made the formal introduction of Helene A. Kalfuss Ph.D. Dr. Bruce began, "Helene is a retired Speech Pathologist who earned her Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees at Wayne State University in Detroit. She had a distinguished career that included Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine and Chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan, and Director of

the Camarillo State Hospital Children's Speech and Language Clinic prior to opening a private practice here in Palm Springs.

Helene is a past president of the Rotary Club of Palm Springs and is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Cathedral City. She is now a full-time Rotarian with a Rotary Resume that includes Past District Governor 2006-2007, District Global Grants chair, Group Discussion Leader and staff at RYLA, training facilitator at RLI and PETS, Literacy Resource Coordinator for Zone 26... honestly, a list of Rotary accomplishments so long we wouldn't have time for the program tonight if I read them all!

Helene has traveled the world as a guest speaker at both clubs and Rotary International Conventions in addition to her global humanitarian efforts as a Rotarian. She has been awarded the *Citation for Meritorious Service* from The Rotary Foundation, the *Service Above Self Award* from Rotary International and the coveted *Distinguished Service Award* from The Rotary Foundation.

Before I ask Helene to come up to the podium I want to acknowledge her husband Leonard of 58 years who is also with us tonight. He has been a Rotarian for 40+ years and has a resume almost as impressive as Helene's!

It is my great honor to introduce to you Dr. Helene A. Kalfuss..."



Helene is probably one of the most dynamic speakers that we we have had the honor to receive at our club this year. She may well be the ultimate authority on the Rotary Foundation. Afterall, she and her husband Leonard have traveled all over the world participating in and observing the implementation of Rotary Grant Funds... and she had the slides to prove it. She made a powerful presentation

constantly driving home the point that all these projects were the results of Rotarians and “OUR” dollars raised through our dues, donations and participation in the Rotary Foundation. Fifty cents may not even buy a pack of gum here in the U.S., but it will buy 6 doses of Malaria Tablets... Sixty cents will buy 1 dose of the polio vaccine. \$50 to \$75 will buy a prosthetic arm or leg that will help someone to walk upright and/or become a productive member of their society. The point being that no contribution is too small to have a dramatic effect on someone’s life! Water projects, hunger projects, cataract and facial surgical operations, education projects and more. Some of Helene’s slides were hard to look at... mostly the “before” slides as the “after” slides were nothing short of miraculous, and all thanks to Rotarians and our participation in the Rotary Foundation. I wish I could convey the amazing feeling of pride in being associated with Rotary that everyone in the room left feeling by the end of Helene’s presentation. It was truly a stirring and impactful presentation and we Thank You Helene for sharing it with us on this evening.



In addition to her flowers and speaker gifts, President Bruce presented Helene with a Certificate of Appreciation from our Club for her Service Above Self and shared with her that all of us from the Rotary Club of La Quinta acknowledge and appreciate all of her sacrifices, hard work and continued efforts on behalf of Rotary... and that she HAS made the world a better place.



President Bruce then thanked the members, special guests, visiting Rotarians, and friends in attendance this evening for their help and support throughout the year and wished everyone safe travels before the reciting of the “Four Way Test” and adjourning the meeting.

It was another wonderful evening spent with fellow Rotarians, spouses, guests, and both new and old friends in the spirit of Rotary.

As Rotarians, our main goal is Peace on Earth. Together, approximately 1.4 million Rotarians are working daily toward this goal by helping to improve the lives of those less fortunate in our own communities and around the world. For us this year that includes our monthly donations to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, our East Coachella Valley Clean Water project, Polio Plus, the Guatemala Literacy Program, Shelter Box and in so many other ways that we can all be proud of our association with the Rotary Club of La Quinta.

**As a reminder, our club will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of every month. Our next meeting is on May 9, 2024, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at [Bycathcart63@Gmail.com](mailto:Bycathcart63@Gmail.com) no later than Monday 05/06/24. The club is responsible for all dinners canceled after that date. There will be a flyer or two coming your way with more details. Make sure to save the date and let us know that you will be joining us... the fun is really happening now!!!**

YIRS,

Bruce Cathcart

President 2023-2025

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. You can reach me at [Bycathcart63@Gmail.com](mailto:Bycathcart63@Gmail.com).

**[Editor's note: Thank you all for your attendance and making our meetings a priority in your schedule. Please share this newsletter with your spouses and friends that could not attend this past meeting and let them know that THEY WERE MISSED!]**