

EARLY FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION!



On June 13, 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!



Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating an early Father's Day together on this evening as they were greeted upon entry by Lora Cathcart and her daughter Katie Zapcart. Rotarians and guests arrived to find the room was set with three tables of 12 all decked out in fine linens highlighted with a few Birthday balloons, flowers for our Birthday and anniversary girls, our soon to be new Assistant District Governor and our speaker. There were bottles of both A-1 Steak Sauce and Texas Pete's Hot Sauce as special treats for all the men in attendance this evening to help celebrate our early Father's Day!



Also on the greeting table were the most beautiful Rotary necklaces, pins and clips made by our Speaker Shirley Grace that were available for purchase. All the proceeds from these sales go to the Jeffrey Jackson Foundation to Partner with Rotary International Grants. Most recently these include; Literacy for for school children in India, Women Empowerment projects in Zimbabwe, and Maternal and Child Health in Cameroon. By the way, David Turner procured several of these items to make available to interested members who were not able to attend this evening's meeting. He will bring them to future meetings so everyone will have a chance to own one! Thank you David!!!



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 Linda Evans 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 and expressing our appreciation and gratitude for all of the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures in our lives and for their selfless love and unwavering support that have shaped and guided us throughout our lives. We are truly thankful for the friendships and camaraderie that we share within our Rotary Family and rejoice in the knowledge that as Rotarians we are making a positive impact in our own community and around the world!



TJ and Abigail Beckert

Allan and Barbara Levin w/Granddaughter AVA

Deborah and Michael

Next president Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made starting with our visiting Rotarians including our soon to be Assistant District Governor Michele Nobleman (the IPP of the Rotary Club of Palm Springs) and our speaker Shirley Grace (PDG and PP Rotary Club of Fresno) who introduced her wonderful husband Dick. Next, our Interact Faculty Advisor Frank Ceja from the Coachella Valley Rotary Club was introduced.

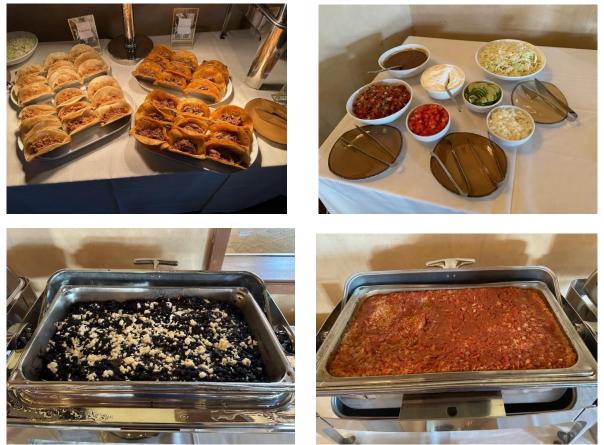


President Bruce then introduced an incredibly special new Rotarian Abigail Beckert from the Rotary Club of Vancouver, Washington who introduced her beautiful husband TJ. Robert Wilkinson took over the microphone and shared with everyone that during his first term as President of our club, Abigail was the President of the Interact Club at La Quinta High School... and she confided that even waaaay back then, it was not a matter of if she would ever become a Rotarian, but when! President Bruce and Abigail then exchanged banners. We welcome you Abigail with open arms into our Rotary Family!!! President Bruce then introduced his son Jim, and his two "daughters" Katie and Casey. Frank Velasco then introduced his beautiful wife Christy; Simon Moore introduced his beautiful wife Edith and their beautiful son Greyson; Allan Levin introduced his beautiful wife Barbara and then he introduced their special guest, their beautiful granddaughter Ava. Next Linda Evans introduced her beautiful husband Tim; Robert Wilkinson introduced his beautiful wife Nancy; Brett Anderson introduced his beautiful wife Colleen; Dr. Bruce introduced his beautiful wife Janet; Deborah McGarrey introduced her beautiful husband Michael; and David Turner introduced his beautiful wife Paula and then he introduced his special guest Brandon Abbott from Eisenhower Health. Lora Cathcart, Sandy Lauer, Dan Fissori, and Lee Osborne 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 buffet started with a Mixed Greens Garden Salad with cucumbers, tomatoes, croutons and Ranch dressing plus there was a Three Bean Salad with grilled cobbed corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, jicama, black beans, kidney beans, cranberry beans and Coriander dressing (all of which went right on top of my mixed greens salad!). Next to the salads was a delicious Shrimp Ceviche in individual bowls that had chunks of shrimp, cucumber, tomatoes, onions, avocados, cilantro and tomato juice! Wow! What a fantastic way to start a "Taco Bar"!!!



Next came the TACOS! A choice of Chicken or Birria Pork (actually no real choice I just took two of each and I was not disappointed) to be smothered with all the taco toppings you could want including Pico de gallo, Guacamole, shredded cabbage and more! The tacos were complimented by Mexican Rice & Refried Black Beans.



Above you can see how everything looked on a plate... and I wish I had taken a picture of the Pineapple Upside Down Cakes that were served for dessert... just know that they were as beautiful as they were DELICIOUS! 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.



Our FAVORITE manager Araceli Mejorado



Our FAVORITE Chef LULU!

About the time when everyone was just finishing up their desserts, but BEFORE President Bruce could step back up to the microphone, his son Jim hijacked the podium and began an unexpected presentation of the "Rotarian of the Year" complete with a Power Point presentation wherein he announced that President Bruce had been awarded the honor this year for our Rotary Club.

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THA



Our Past President and current Club Treasurer David Turner then stepped up and began an "Old School" Demotion party "This is Your Life" style Roast of President Bruce that that turned out to be more heartfelt praise than roast.



Next Mayor Linda Evans and Council Member Deborah McGarrey, on behalf of the City of La Quinta, delivered an impressive speech and framed Proclamation recognizing President Bruce for his commitment and service to the Rotary Club of La Quinta and to our Community. And as if that wasn't enough, Lora Cathcart, our Club Secretary who masterminded this whole chain of events, shared some final thoughts of appreciation, thanked President Bruce and presented him with a beautiful, engraved plaque commemorating the event.

A truly humbled President Bruce resumed control of the microphone and did his best to express his appreciation for all of the preceedings... though obviously being overwhelmed with emotion. Upon regaining his composure he did manage to share that when asked what makes our club the greatest club in the world? He is always quick to respond that it is our members and special guests and their love, friendships, camaradery, energy and enthusiasm that they bring to each and every meeting. [Thank you all for the honor of being your president and for all that you did for me on this special evening. I will never forget it!]

Finally... getting back to his job and the meeting at hand, President Bruce took the opportunity to welcome everyone again and thanked our favorite Food and Beverage/Clubhouse Manager Araceli, our favorite 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. As always, a special thank you to Araceli for her extra effort... we really appreciate all that you do for us!

Bruce then reminded everyone that our next dinner meeting would take place on JULY 11, 2024, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM. This will be our CLUB ASSEMBLY where we will be celebrating the new Rotary year... the "Magic of Rotary" and setting our Goals, Budgets and business items as we begin the RY 2024-2025. 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 11th?" 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 (was) Thursday evening, June 20, 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 3rd 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 Friday, June 28, 2024, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COACHELLA VALLEY DERBY GIRLS



Jim "Crashcart", the voice of the Coachella Valley Derby Girls (CVDG) announced that the next Derby Girls Bout is (was) Saturday night, June 22, 2024.



Jim then introduced our very own Casey Zapcart known as the "Flying Tank" who, on behalf of the Coachella Valley Derby Girls, shared that they had raised \$250.00 through their 50/50 drawing at their May Derby Bout (which was declared the Unofficial Rotary Night at the Bout) and that the Team had matched that amount. She then presented President Bruce with a Check in the amount of

\$500.00 and a framed poster signed by all the team members. Overwhelmed by these girls community spirit and generosity President Bruce expressed our Club's sincere Thanks for their donation. Several of our club members have attended this season's bouts already and all agree that they are GREAT FUN!!! All are invited so please, come on out and show your support for our home team!



Seven RCLQ Club Members attended the services held for Susan Denning, wife of our beloved Past President Denn Denning, on June 1, 2024 (just 10 months after Denn's passing). The services were held at the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church (same place as Denn's services) and it was a sad, but beautiful service. With tears in his eyes, President Bruce attached Susan's Rotary Badge to the ribbon on the flowers as a special remembrance of all that she (and Denn) meant to our club. One of the highlights was the spectacular flower arrangement that our club member Andy Martinez' wife Reonna created at the last minute and delivered to the church in advance of the ceremony on behalf of our club (see photos above). She and her staff truly went the extra mile to make this happen and if anyone has a need for a florist I would strongly recommend contacting Reonna at the Flower Patch (information in the slide above).

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

BirthdaysLinda Evans6/5Christy Velasco6/8Bruce Underwood6/9

Anniversaries Brett & Colleen Anderson 6/14 Bruce & Lora Cathcart 6/14 Simon & Edith Moore 6/18

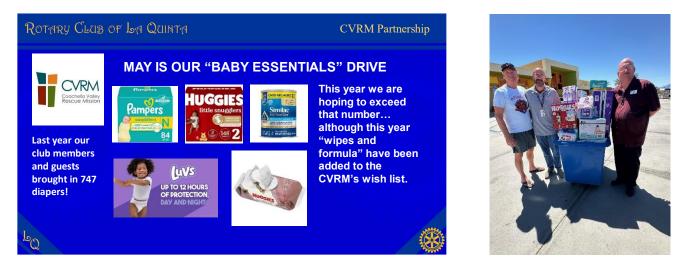


Next we celebrated June Birthdays and Anniversaries. Linda, Christy and Dr. Bruce were all in attendance and received balloons, double chocolate bundt cakes and all Birthday Girls and wives celebrating anniversaries received a single rose. Since no one's birthday was on the actual day of the meeting so we all got a reprieve from singing this evening... but each were celebrated and were wished a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary!



Next President Bruce announced that the annual Club Dues for Rotary Year 2024-2025 would return to the pre-Covid level of \$250.00 per year. The good news

here is that from each member's dues, \$25.00 will be donated in that member's name to the Rotary Foundation and will apply toward their Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Dues will be due on July 1, 2024, and all members will receive [have received] an Invoice via email... although President Bruce said that members can wait until the July 11th meeting and pay in person by cash, check or credit card!



President Bruce thanked everyone for participating in our annual "BABY ESSENTIALS" DRIVE at the CVRM. This used to be our annual "DIAPER" DRIVE, but this year we were asked to bring in Wipes and Formula as well as Diapers. Last year's total was 747 diapers... but this year our members and guests really out did themselves by bringing in 2,179 Diapers, 4,036 wipes, two cans of formula and 5 tubes of Desitin. What an AMAZING effort and a real testimony to the generosity of our club. This drive benefits the youngest members in our community who really need our help. Way to go Rotary Club of La Quinta!



June was our annual "Summer Wear" Drive for the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Together, our members and Special Guests brought in a total 296 items

that included men's and women's shorts, T-shirts, swim suits, summer dresses, ball caps, flip-flops... even sunglasses! What an excellent job you all did to help those in need to stay cool this summer! Your President is so proud of you!!!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

CVRM Partnership



The month of July is one of our most important drives of the year for the CVRM. It is our Help Kids Thrive "School Supplies" drive! This year President Bruce asked that our club focus on actual supplies and not "Back Packs" as we had in the past. School Teacher Katie Zapcart offered her Pro-Tip: Buy only Crayola Crayons and DO NOT LEAVE THEM IN YOUR HOT CAR!!! These items will be distributed by the Mission to school aged children in need on August 5th at 7 am at the CVRM. Volunteers are welcome to come out and help.

President Bruce then shared a heartfelt THANK YOU to our club members and their special guests for all that we have accomplished in Rotary Year 2023-2024. "And just what did we accomplish in 2023-2024?" he asked. Check out the slides that follow and you will be amazed at what we did to help those less fortunate individuals within our community and around the world in just one year!

CVRM Partnership



We had twelve community service projects in association with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission that helped their residents, disadvantaged families in the Coachella Valley and the Homeless from Banning to Blythe!



We purchased, prepared and served almost 1,000 hot dogs to the citizens in LQ.

2023-2024 Accomplishments



We sent \$1,000.00 to the Guatemala Literacy Project and \$500 to the Polio Plus Program. We sent six students to RYLA, and we re-established our Interact Club at La Quinta High School which now has 30 members!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

SEVICE ABOVE SELF AWARDS



Thank You for your Service Above Self!



We gave \$700.00 in Service Above Self Awards to 3 Coachella Valley HS Students.

SEVICE ABOVE SELF AWARDS



We also honored three outstanding Rotarians for their service Above Self this year including Simon Moore for his work with the Fentanyl Awareness program that brought together 250 Students from 5 different Coachella Valley High Schools; Kimberly McKinney for forging our partnership/alliance with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission; and Frank Ceja who became our Faculty Advisor at La Quinta High School and re-established our Interact Club.



We also Awarded 2 deserving La Quinta High School Seniors with scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each!

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH



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 on and off with our club for many years. This individual is working toward their first Paul Harris Fellow and has participated in many of our charitable events over the years... In fact, for many of those years this individual helped secure the BBQ Trailer for the City's annual picnic and birthday celebration. This rotary year this individual played a key role in securing our grant for the RYLA Students scholarship funds from the City of La Quinta. This individual has always been there to support our club, and Rotary both financially, and with her "Service Above Self". Our Congratulations to Deborah McGarrey, our Rotarian of the Month for June!



Next President Bruce took a moment to acknowledge ALL of our Rotarians of the Month for RY 2023-2024 (Sorry the names got a bit jumbled in copying the slide), and he thanked them for all that they did and do for our club all year long!



Next it was time to Thank his Board Members and his "Presidential Staff".



Each Board Member was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, a bottle of Champagne and one hundred Paul Harris Recognition Points... along with President Bruce's heartfelt thanks and his sharing with the audience that we could not have accomplished all that we did as a club this year without the efforts of his Board Members!



Next President Bruce Thanked his "Presidential Staff" with a Certificate of Appreciation and tickets to a Firebirds Hockey Game! He shared with the audience that these three individuals were responsible for the set-up, takedown, Power Point presentations and all the tech stuff that keeps our meetings running smoothly each month. His pride was evident as he acknowledged them.

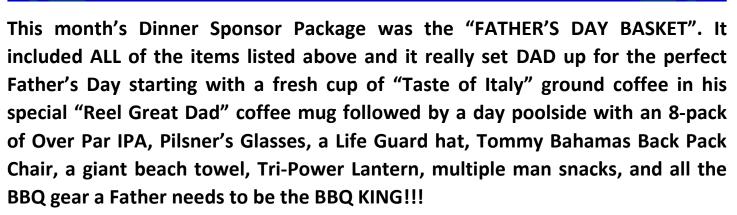
Finally, Bruce asked, "Who's ready to get this party started?"

June Dinner Sponsor Basket "FATHER'S DAY BASKET"



This month's Dinner Sponsor Package is the "FATHER'S DAY BASKET". It includes an 8 Pack of La Quinta Brewery's Over Par IPA, 4 Pilsner's Glasses and a large Jug of Pub Mix, a Tommy Bahama's Backpack Chair, an oversized 100% cotton Beach Towel and a straw "Lifeguard" Hat, a Duracell Tri-power rechargeable Lantern, a "REEL Great Dad" coffee mug and "Taste of Italy" Ground Coffee, a 4 pack Scripto Utility Lighters, a 6piece Blackstone Griddle tool kit plus a long handle BBQ spatula, BBQ Mitt, 2 BBQ Kitchen Towels and BBQ pot holders, BBQ Scissors, Basting Brush, Spray Bottle and Grill Scrubber, 1 set Corn Holders and Trays, 1 Mesquite BBQ Seasoning, 2 packs of Jack Links Beef Jerky, 1 Hickory Farms Summer Sausage, 1 pack of Chips Ahoy Chewy Chocolate Chip Cookies, and a large wicker basket.

Thank you for partaking in this month's "fun" draiser!





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, Janet Underwood and Paula Turner. It turns out that for the second month in a row the Basket would go home with the Underwoods! Congratulations Janet!!! Puala collected the runner up prize which came in handy later that evening. Though it included a romantic scented candle, David told me it was the two boxes of candy that he enjoyed most!



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 the hat. Happy Dollars were collected around the room with best wishes for birthdays and anniversaries, for the new friends made this evening and for the great comradery within our club.

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

Guest Speaker: SHIRLEY GRACE

MAY 9, 2024



Little known facts about Shirley Grace...

Shirley sang the National Anthem for years for the San Francisco Giants.

Shirley was a Big Band Singer with Frank Wells Orchestra in Fresno and Sal Carson's Orchestra in San Francisco.

Shirley has a jewelry making business.

Shirley cycles 75 miles a week on a road Bike.

Shirley has 19 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren!

Thank You Shirley for your "Service Above Self"



Finally, it was time for our program. President Bruce introduced our speaker for this evening and began, "Shirley is Past President of the Rotary Club of Fresno (08-09) and Past District Governor of District 5230 (12-13). Shirley has served her District as Foundation Chair and council on Legislation and served as Zone 25-26 Institute Chair and Co-Chair in 2017-18. She is a cyclist and has raised over \$400,000 for End Polio Now over the last 5 years. A recipient of the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World and The Foundations Meritorious Service Award, Shirley and her husband Dick are Major Donors, Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society Members.

Her passion is "hands on service" through local and International Grants projects, and many of those projects she remains involved with through multiyear commitments and relationships. Shirley travels often to inspire Rotarians as a keynote speaker and continues to find fulfillment and peace through Rotary and Community Service. Before President Bruce invited Shirley up to the podium he shared with the group that he received a phone call from Shirley this morning around 9 am. Shirley's plane flight had been canceled and there were no other flights to Palm Springs on this day. Prepared for Shirley to cancel, he was surprised when Shiley informed him that she had called her husband and that he was coming to pick her up and they would be driving down to our meeting from Santa Barbara! Such amazing dedication and integrity, the kind of Rotarian that we should all strive to be like!!!



All month long President Bruce had been promising an outstanding and thought provoking presentation... and Shirley did not disappoint!

Shirley began by sharing a bit of history about herself and the different Matching Grant programs that she began and brought to fruition along with making lifelong friends with her counterparts in India and several other countries around the world. She played a short video that chronicaled many of these grant programs in pictures. These programs included a Wheel Chair Distribution program, administering the Polio Vaccine, empowering Women... in total, Shirley has completed over 50 Grant Programs since 2013! It is an amazing tale of an amazing women's jouney with Rotary to truly make a difference in the world and improve the lives of thousands of less fortunate, underserved individuals in some of the most impoverished countries.

Shirley finished her presentation by sharing a story of a young couple who had given birth to a son who was severly disabled and the challenges that this young family went through just to survive the ordeal. Oak Park Rotary house, (sponsored by Rotary Clubs in Northern California) came to their rescue as a free, safe, supporting place to stay while their child received the care that he needed at nearby UC Davis Health Center. Shirley explained what the "Rotary House" meant to this young family and how as time went by, they stayed involved with the Rotary House and eventually the mother joined the original Rotary Club that founded the Rotary House. It was at that point that Shirley revealed to an audience with tear filled eyes that the she was that mother and that it was her son, Jeffrey Jackson for whom she created the Jeffrey Jackson Memorial Fund.





President Bruce, on behalf of the entire club, Thanked Shirley for her amazing presentation and for inspiring us all by leading by example in her Service Above Self and in all things Rotary. He then presented Tracey with a "Be Good, Do Good, Feel Good" coffee mug and a Certificate of Appreciation from our Club for her Service Above Self. As a last-minute parting gift, President Bruce and Lora Cathcart surprised Shirley with a \$100 Gas card to help defray the cost of their unexpected drive down to the desert. Both Shirley and President Bruce then extended their THANKS to David and Paula Turner for hosting Shirley and her husband in their casita until they returned home the following day.

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 2nd Thursday evening of every month. Our next meeting is on July 11, 2024, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at <u>Bycathcart63@Gmail.com</u> no later than Monday 07/08/24. 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 <u>Bycathcart63@Gmail.com</u>.

[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!]