



# The “Dia de los Muertos” Meeting



On October 12, 2023, 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 awards, giving and good fun.



Lora Cathcart and Daughter Katie Zapcart at the Greeting table.

Everyone was in good spirits and looking forward to celebrating the start of the “SPOOKY” Season.



Early arrivals were treated to a beautiful sunset from the Clubhouse Patio area looking across the Greg Norman Golf Course. The dining room was set up with 2 tables for 10 and one table for 8 with the buffet tables set to the side of the room. Lora had decorated the tables with Dia de los Muertos table runners, witch hats and balloons in honor of the two anniversaries being celebrated this evening.



After about 30 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 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 and for the attendance of our speaker, Carol Pipitone who exemplifies the Rotary Spirit through her Service above Self with the Shelter Box program and also for our La Quinta High School Interact Club Faculty Advisor, Frank Ceja who goes above and beyond every day in service to the youth in our community.**



**Visiting Rotarians Carol and Sharon from CC Evening**

**Frank Ceja from Coachella Valley**

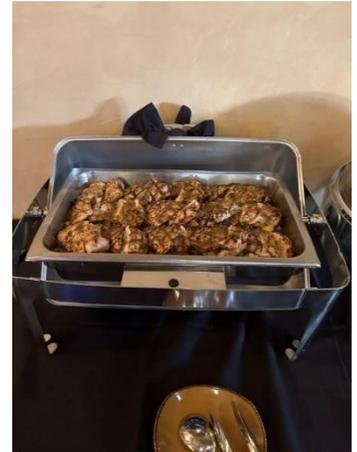
**Next Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our visiting Rotarians of which we had 3 this evening including our Speaker Carol Pipitone and fellow Cathedral City Dinner Club member Sharon and Frank Ceja from the Coachella Valley Rotary Club. As our Interact Club Faculty Advisor Frank addressed the group briefly and shared that we currently have 28 students who have signed up to be members of the on campus Interact club at La Quinta High School this year [GREAT JOB Frank and Dan Fissori our Youth Services Chairman this year!] Lora Cathcart introduced her “daughters” Katie and Casey Zapcart. President Bruce said that he was honored to introduce his brother Jim who then introduced his lovely wife Maria, Allan Levin introduced his lovely wife Barbara and our good friends John and Gail Nottberg [Welcome back John and Gail! Gail wheeled in on a scooter supporting her recently operated on ankle!!!]. President Bruce then introduced two more guests Daisy Floyd and Ruby Rebuso who were attending their very first Rotary Club meeting! Dan Fissori introduced his LOVELY wife TC, and Doug Motz introduced his lovely wife Carole and then President Bruce introduced yet another guest, our friend Simon Moore who introduced his wife Edith and their son Greyson. There were a few last-minute cancellations making this a truly unique meeting as special guests and guests outnumbered members**

by a ratio of almost 4 to 1!!! Thank you all who attended and for making this evening so special.

Changing up the usual format, Dinner was then served with the Announcements and meeting fun to follow!



Our dinners are served “Buffet Style” and this month’s dinner included a few surprises as we have a new chef for our Rotary meals here at the Greg Norman Clubhouse, Marilou who goes by “Chef Lulu”.



Tonight’s starters included Chef Lulu’s special salads: a choice (or mixture of) stuffed pasta, mixed garden greens and chopped Romaine plus Croutons, grape tomatoes, and a choice of three dressings, two white and one pink... I picked a white one which turned out to be homemade ranch... but I was told all were very good. This was just the first surprise as the little card labels were missing this evening and so a few of the items were a bit of a surprise when first eaten. Especially the first entrée which turned out to be summer Calamari in Basil Marinara sauce with sweet Kalamata Olives and French Green beans. Those who thought the Calamari were just noodles found them to be a little more al dente

than expected at first bite! But once it was realized that they were not noodles, but instead, Calamari... they were determined to be quite delicious! The second entrée consisted of grilled Chicken Breasts in a wild and white rice blend including whole grain Rosemary Mustard. Topping the meal off was a Blackberry Custard Tart for dessert.



Chef Lulu's debut meal turned out to be a delightful surprise with an unexpected combination of flavors that had many going back for seconds. It looks like we can expect many more great meals to come this year!!!

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 and again thank Carly, Felicity, Chef Lulu, and especially Araceli and Issac of the serving staff that together make the room available, set the room, plan, prepare and serve the meal, and make this evening happen for us each month!

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **November 9, 2023**, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where our speaker will be Captain Mike Bianco, our chief of Police here in the City of La Quinta. 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!!!"]**

Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission will be next Thursday evening, October 19, 2023, from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. Bruce and Lora will not be able to attend. If interested in helping out, contact President Bruce for more information on how you can participate.

Our next Lunch/Board meeting has been postponed until November the date TBD at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Happy 28<sup>th</sup> Klayton Archie Reynolds Happy 9<sup>th</sup>

La Q Rotary Club of La Quinta logo

Tonight, we had three momentous occasions to celebrate! Linda and Tim's 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, the birth of Klayton Archie Reynolds (Misty's first grandchild) and Katie and Casey's 9<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations to you all!!! **[If you have a special occasion coming up, please let me know so your Rotary Family can help celebrate it with you!!!]**

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, March 9, 2024,  
Rotary Night at the Firebirds Hockey Game at the Acrisure Arena  
Valleywide Rotary Clubs Pre-Game Mixer



La Q Rotary Club of La Quinta logo

**Bruce reminded everyone that at the recent Coachella Valley Rotary President's Council meeting he was informed that there is a Firebirds Hockey Game and Valleywide Rotary Club Mixer being scheduled for March 9, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. An hour and a half before the gates open to the Hockey Game Rotarians from all clubs in the valley will gather in a private room with one drink (each) and light hors d'oeuvres plus a few extra surprises! The cost is to be \$65 per ticket for Center Ice seats. The price does not include parking. They are still not yet accepting reservations or payment for tickets yet, but as soon as they do we'll get a sign-up sheet together.**



**President Bruce then shared that Rotary is EVERYWHERE! He asked that whenever and wherever we travel, and we see examples of Rotary in service around the world, that we snap a few photos and send them to him so they can be shared with our members and guests. This month Doug and Carole Motz sent in photos of the Rotary Wall that they visited while in Italy and Jim Cathcart sent in some photos from Sleepy Hollow, New York of a Rotary Food Collection Box. We look forward to seeing more photos like these in the coming months. Doug, Carole, and Jim, Thank you for sharing!!!**

**The BIG NEWS this month is that on October 3, 2023, the RCLQ Foundation received a Grant from the City of La Quinta to send 11 LQHS Students to RYLA in**

the amount of \$4,950.00!!! Our special thanks to our Mayor Linda Evans and Council member Deborah McGarrey for their help, support and for making this happen. President Bruce also thanked Foundation Board members Allan Levin and David Turner as well as our Club secretary Lora Cathcart for attending the council meeting to support our Grant request. Way to go TEAM ROTARY!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA CVRM Partnership

September "SOCKTEMBER" MONTH



The collage features four photographs. The top-left photo is a close-up portrait of a smiling woman with blonde hair. The bottom-left photo shows a group of people gathered around tables in a community room. The center photo shows three individuals (two men and one woman) standing together, each holding a bag of socks. The right photo shows a group of five men in a kitchen or food service area, with one man kneeling in the foreground.

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Bruce first thanked all the members and guests for their participation in last month's CVRM "Socktember" drive where our club members and guests brought in 544 pairs of new socks (exceeding last year's total of 195 pairs) to be used at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and distributed by their outreach program to the homeless from Banning to Blythe.



President Bruce and Allan Levin with packages for this month's Canned Goods Drive.

This month was our annual canned goods drive, and our club members and guests were asked to bring in new and unexpired canned goods to be used at the mission for their daily meals as well as their Thanksgiving Feast to be held next month in November. **[A final tally showed 242 canned goods in a wide variety of foods plus 1 backpack, assorted baby clothes, men's undershirts, and underwear plus 16 more pairs of socks!!! It just goes to show that it is never too late to participate in one of our monthly drives!]**

In Kimberly McKinney's absence, President Bruce announced that next month our club will be donating Pumpkin Pies for the Mission's Thanksgiving Desserts! Rotarians and guests will be asked to bake pumpkin pies and... no, I'm just kidding here! At the November dinner meeting there will be a voluntary collection and the funds raised will be used to purchase the giant pumpkin pies from Costco prior to Thanksgiving and delivered to the mission. Costco pies cost about \$6 each and our goal is to purchase as many pies as possible. Just think about that good feeling that we will all have when we are gathered with our family and friends and enjoying a delicious slice of pumpkin pie this Thanksgiving... knowing that thanks to our efforts, several hundred folks at the mission will also be able to enjoy a slice of pumpkin pie for dessert! Next month please bring in a few extra "pumpkin pie bucks".

OCTOBER Rotarian of the Month: ALLAN LEVIN



Thank you for your Service Above Self!



It was now 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.




**ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH**

From The Rotary Club of La Quinta

*Allan Levin*

For his Service Above Self



*Bruce Y. Cathcart*  
Bruce Y. Cathcart  
President 2023-2024

**FOUR WAY TEST**  
Is it the truth?  
Is it Fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

President Bruce began, “This month’s Rotarian of the month is someone that I have known for over 33 years and is in fact the second longest standing member of our club behind our Founding Member Doug Motz and just ahead of yours truly by about 5 months! He has served on the Club’s Board as our Sargent-at-arms and as our most infamous fine master for most of those 33 years and is currently on both the Club and the Foundation Board. He always participates in our fundraisers and has been in charge of several of them over the years including our participation in the La Quinta Arts Festival and the Palm Springs Air Museum’s “Hops and Props”. I do not think that he has missed a single City of La Quinta Annual Birthday Celebration and Picnic over the past 30 years... not even on the day of his wedding to Barbara! He is known for his rapier wit and roasting of past presidents, and he is most generous with his time and efforts! As an engineer he has a keen eye for details which he points out regularly by editing my newsletters, meeting minutes and communications... I only wish he would do it BEFORE I send them out!!! I am so proud to present my “Grill Mate” and friend for over 30 years... Congratulations to Allan Levin, our Rotarian of the Month for October!”

Finally, Bruce asked, “Who’s ready to get this party started?”



This month’s Dinner Sponsor basket is titled the “Boo Basket”. It included 750 ML bottle of Mi Familia Flores Tequila Plata, a Dia delos Muertos Shot Glasses Set (6) and Serving Tray, 2 Halloween Themed Décor Signs, 1 bag of Joffrey’s “Hocus Pocus” Cinnamon Apple Caramel Ground Coffee and “Pumpkin King” Coffee Mug, a “Feeling Wicked” Ceramic Witch Cookie Jar, 3 Halloween Kitchen Towels, a bottle of “Witch’s Brew” Red Wine with Spices from Leelanau Vineyards and 2

**Jack-O-Lantern Poolside Wine Goblets, 1 Dia de los Muertos Plastic Serving Tray, 1 large Halloween Plastic Candy Bowl, 1 Bag of Fun-Sized Snickers Candy Bars, 1 bag of Trader Joe's Wicked Good Mini-Chocolate Bars and 1 Four-Pack Halloween BAT Clips!**



**After a single card (half) was drawn from the top hat, all the “Dinner Sponsor Card” holders were asked to stand up, they were 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... And our lucky winner this month was BARBARA LEVIN! Knowing that the basket ingredients included two large bags of candy, Barbara graciously gave the basket to our guests Simon and Edith Moore. Pictured with Barbara above is their son Greyson Moore who appeared quite anxious to discover all the goodies within! Not wanting to encourage bad behavior in children, Barbara elected to keep the Tequila, shot glasses, and serving tray! Congratulations Barbara!!!**

**Next it was time for “Happy Dollars”. Happy Dollars 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 carried the hat and had Bruce start things off with a donation in honor our special guests in attendance this night as well as for the anniversaries and new baby Reynolds! Next Lora and Katie both donated a few dollars in celebration of Katie and Casey’s 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jim Cathcart was happy for an upcoming visit from his daughter and Gail Nottberg was both happy and excited to only have two weeks left before she**

has permission to ditch the scooter and begin walking again! Barbara celebrated Greyson's attendance with a few dollars and Allan followed suit celebrating both the basket win and being named Rotarian of the Month. Our new guests Daisy and Ruby added a few dollars in celebration of getting to meet everyone at their first Rotary Club meeting, our guest and faculty advisor Frank contributed celebrating the renewal of old friendships followed by Doug Motz also celebrating the reunion with Frank! Our Youth Services Chairman Dan celebrated Franks visit and was super happy that we had 28 kids signed up for Interact and Carol Motz was just happy to be here! Including the Dinner sponsor tickets over \$300.00 was collected this evening which will be used to support the club's annual charitable giving. Our thanks to you all!



Our speaker this evening was Carol Pipitone from the Shelter Box USA Program. Carol is our Shelterbox Ambassador council member for Southern California and has been the Coachella Valley and RI district 5330 representative since 2010.

She emigrated from London in 1994 to live in the Southern Californian desert and became a US Citizen in 2006. Carol is a Wealth Advisor with Brookwood Investment Group. She is an active community member with the Cathedral City Rotary Evening Club, and a past president of the Palm Springs Evening Star and Cathedral City Rotary Clubs. Carol takes great pride in her efforts to raise funds and awareness for local causes including The Desert Winds Freedom Band and Shelterbox USA. Carol has been a host mother for 3 Rotary International Exchange Students. She loves animals and shares her home with her two chihuahuas and a

German Shepherd with corgi legs, who have become her work from home "office assistants" since the pandemic.

Carol Has received Presidential awards for her work with Shelterbox USA from Obama, Trump, and Biden, and is eager to share the Shelterbox story with your club!

Carol began her presentation with a short video which can be seen (hopefully) by clicking this link: [\(795\) What We Do | ShelterBox - YouTube](#)

Guest Speaker: Carol Pipitone

October 12, 2023

The infographic lists the following items and prices:

- HYGIENE KIT | \$25
- SOLAR LIGHTS | \$30
- COOKING SET | \$50
- CLEAN WATER KIT | \$75
- SHELTER KIT | \$100
- FAMILY BEDDING | \$275
- FAMILY RELIEF TENT | \$525

COMPLETE CUSTOM SHELTER PACKAGE \$1,000

STOCK THE BOX

Carol then shared with us the origins of the Shelter Box Program and the many, many places that they have been deployed. She shared with us the different countries and natural disasters that included floods, droughts, earthquakes, and fires as well as the war zones and refugees that have received Shelter Boxes over the past several years. It was truly amazing the number of Shelter Boxes that have been distributed worldwide and the humanitarian aid that they have provided. Each Shelter Box contains a tent, water filter, cooking and eating utensils, bedding, sanitation items, tools and are customized for each individual area by adding mosquito netting for example and similar items to address local conditions. The Shelter Box Program is funded by donations and grants and each Shelter Box costs \$1,000.00 USD.

**Before concluding her presentation Carol patiently and expertly answered questions from the audience.**

**President Bruce shared with those in attendance this evening that our club had participated in this program in the past and that it was one of his goals as President this year to raise the funds to purchase at least one Shelter Box. He stated, "The theme for Rotary this year is to Create Hope in The World.**

**Delivering a Shelter Box to a family that has just lost everything and when things look hopeless, brings hope in the shape of a green box with a Rotary emblem on it".**



**President Bruce then presented Carol with his own Presidential Award that she will no doubt proudly display alongside her previous Presidential Awards that she received from Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden.**

**Carol is an inspiration to all who meet her and a true example of the Rotary spirit and Service Above Self. Thank you Carol for your excellent presentation.**

**President Bruce led the group in the reciting of the "Four Way Test" before 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 contributions 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 November 9, 2023, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at [Bruce@LQPRE.com](mailto:Bruce@LQPRE.com) no later than Monday 11/06/23. 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 just getting started!!!**

**YIRS,**

**Bruce Cathcart**

**President 2023-2024**

**Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. You can reach me at [Bruce@LQPRE.com](mailto:Bruce@LQPRE.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!]**