

Rotary



Club of Indio

Club Meeting

Indio
Meets at Fantasy
Springs Resort
Special Events Center
84-245 Indio Springs
Dr. Indio, CA 92203
Fantasy Springs
Resort Casino/Special
Events Ctr 84-245
Indio Springs
Parkway
Indio, CA 92203
Time: Tuesday at
12:10 PM

Club Leaders



[Barbara
Dreis](#)
Assistant
Governor

Events

May 23rd
[Indio Weekly
Club Meeting](#)

May 30th
[Indio Weekly
Club Meeting](#)

June 6th
[Indio Weekly
Club Meeting](#)

June 13th
[Indio Weekly
Club Meeting](#)

June 20th
[Indio Weekly
Club Meeting](#)

Rotary Club of Indio (Noon) Awards \$7500 in Scholarships

Tuesday, May 23, 2023



On May 22 the Rotary Club of Indio (noon) made scholarship awards to nine graduating seniors of Shadow Hills High School, totalling \$ 7500.

Left to Right in the photograph are: Interact Club Publicist Nicole Piscatella, Aly Godinez, Interact Club Co-President Sonya Fernandez, Jocefa Cruz-Berdejo, Rotary Youth Service Chair Dennis Sheehan, Alejandro Olivares, Jennifer Aguirre, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy camper Allison Morden, Daniel Palmer, Interact Club Treasurer Diana Rojano-Garcia, and Rotary Club President Chris Schultz who presented the awards to each senior.

Our congratulations to each scholarship award winner and wishes for continued success as they begin their college careers!

Our special thanks to Mrs. Gricelda Munoz, career counselor at SHHS, who made the event possible.

Newsletter 05/23/2023

By Merlina Dominica Tate on Tuesday, May 23, 2023

The Rotary Club of Indio's meeting
Tuesday May 23, 2023
at Fantasy Springs Convention Center.

Members present: Sue Steding, Stacy Fifield, Kim Maguire-Hardee, Chris Schultz, Chris Pickering, Steve Losh, Steve Morgan, Jeff Gonzalez, Bob Firing, John Niederkorn, Dennis Sheehan, Bryan Montgomery, Bill Schinsky and Ben Guitron

Visitors: Yumi Shigematsu, friend of Bob Firing and Mike Colby, potentially a new member, business associate of Jeff Gonzalez and friend to both Jeff and President Chris.

The pledge was presented by Steve Morgan
The 4-Way test was led by Steve Losh

Announcements:

- President Chris and Interact chair Dennis Sheehan helped present college scholarships to 9 students at

SHHS. 6 of the 9 are entering a 4-year program and were presented with \$1000 scholarships. 3 are entering COD and were presented with a \$500 scholarship. The CV Art Center and Bill Schinsky will cover the slight overage from the budgeted amount so we could give something to each of the wonderful students.

- If you have not yet registered to attend the District Conference, please do so either via DACdb or the District 5330 website. It will be held at Fantasy Springs and Governor Don has created a series of programs to help celebrate our year's effort of Making Rotary Relevant.
- The Demotion party will occur at our regular noon meeting time and place on Tuesday June 20. Please plan to be present to applaud Chris....sort of.... Please also note a change in the June lunch scheduling, the monthly zoom meeting will be the last Tuesday of the month, on June 27.

Program:

Chef Freddy (Rieger), the executive chef with Fantasy Springs Casino and Events Center. Chef noted that our member and DG Don Casper was not present for his speech, but was satisfied to learn that Don is in Melbourne, Australia for the RI convention. Chef was born in Valley Forge, PA of Italian and German heritage. He learned to cook with the women of the Italian side of his family. His first job, as a teenager over summer breaks was working in a slaughter house. Gratefully he minimized what was involved.

He worked in the restaurant business, initially with casinos in Atlantic City, NJ and working for the Trump family. He was lured to Las Vegas to help open the Mirage, taking his very young family across country. There, amongst celebrity sightings, bright lights and lots of action, he rose to become an executive sous chef overseeing 14 restaurants within the Mirage and countless employees.

In 1999, he coached his family back to the east coast and Orlando, FL when Universal Studios opened their first hotel, the Portofino Bay, one of many boutique hotels owned by an international hotel holding. Although he enjoyed working in an Italian themed hotel, he missed the excitement of a casino and his wife didn't like Orlando. He rejoined the Trump Family business in Atlantic City, NJ. Hired there as an assistant executive chef, he quickly was invited to replace the executive chef, his dream job dampened only by the fact he was given the job 2 days after 9/11. Top staff at that casino migrated to Fantasy Springs Casino taking Chef Freddy with them in 2007.

At Fantasy Springs he has 6 restaurants. He enjoys training folks to be chefs, hires people who are caring and welcoming to all, and believes that we should "Make Food. Make Memories". He gives back to our community by offering lectures at LQHS culinary arts program and will be adding Rancho Mirage High School's similar program to his schedule. He also serves as an advisor to the COD culinary arts program, reviewing course content and curriculum.

He found the date industry to be very interesting and enjoys creating dishes using dates.
Opportunity drawing: \$17. Bob Firing chose geography, what is the most common Spanish surname? Someone remembered the answer from a previous time correctly, Garcia.
Next week, we will be in person, at the events center on Tuesday May 30, 2023

Club Meeting

Indio

Fantasy Springs Resort Special Events Center 84-245 Indio Springs Dr. Indio, CA 92203

Tuesday at 12:10 PM