

Saturday, January 20, 2024

## City Council Member and Former Mayor Grace Garner

By James M. Dunn Jr.

Council Member Garner began her talk by reflecting on our major weather event last year—Hurricane Hilary. She spoke of the city’s preparation for the storm and the way residents banded together to prepare. The storm had a huge impact on the Indian Canyon access into the City. This major artery was severed, which affected emergency response as well as commuters. The Governor was here and observed the impact of the storm. The good news is that Palm Springs, in partnership with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, will soon begin construction on a bridge over the wash on Indian Avenue.

Council member Garner then reviewed a number of key initiatives in the City.

**Measure J** (1% sales tax) has raised \$172 million for city maintenance and improvements. So far, over \$65 million has been spent on street repairs and improvements. The tax will soon sunset, and the City will need to determine the path forward and whether the tax should be renewed.

**Low Income Housing:** Three low-income housing developments are under development or recently opened. One is dedicated to seniors, one is located at Desert Aids Project and the Monarch apartments recently opened on N. Palm Canyon.

The **homeless navigation center** will be partially opened by February. People will be referred by the access center located across from the Airport. The Center will include services to connect people to social programs to assist them with job and medical resources.

Grace noted that our Veterans Day Parade is now the largest in the State and the Black History Parade is among the largest in SoCal.

The **library** is approximately 50 years old and is now in need of complete renovation. The City is in the process of moving forward with this project and looking to the possible future needs of the community and the building.

Council member Garner explained that during her year as Mayor opened up the Council meetings to be more accessible to local students by inviting them to lead the flag salute at the Council meetings. This new tradition is being carried forward by the current Mayor.

The presentation was very informative and illustrated how busy our city is and the progress underway.

### HEADS UP!!

The Club Meeting this week will be in the Hilton's Restaurant (off lobby entrance by the pool)

Palm Springs Hilton 400  
E Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Time: Wednesday at  
11:45 AM

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### Speakers

**January 24, 2024**

[Mike Mullin](#)

Laundry Love

**January 31, 2024**

[Julie Hirsh, Director of Community Outreach](#)

Jewish Family Services of the Desert

### Club Leaders



[Karl D. Kruger](#)  
President



[James M. Dunn Jr.](#)  
Secretary



[Michele Nobleman](#)  
Treasurer  
iPast President



[Robert C. Allan](#)  
Club Director



Judy J. Bronstein  
 Club Director  
 Youth Services  
 Chair



Jack Fitzsimmons  
 Club Director  
 Rotary  
 Foundation  
 Chair  
 International  
 Service Chair



Dennis V. Hacker  
 Club Director  
 Community  
 Service Chair



Frank E. Peabody  
 Club Director  
 Sergeant-at-  
 Arms



Walter William Gendell  
 Membership  
 Chair



Timothy A. Ellis  
 Club Foundation  
 President

## Birthdays

Judy J. Bronstein  
 February 17th

## Announcements

Sending healing wishes to President Karl as he undergoes testing on his leg to resolve some persistent pain.

February 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>: Frank reminded everyone to sign up to participate in the **Tour de Palm Springs** to work in our booth. It is loads of fun and the club's biggest fundraiser. See Frank to sign up for your shift!



## Prescott Preserve - Rotary Work Day



Ten Rotary and five Interact Club members joined with other community volunteers for a morning of habitat clean-up at Prescott Preserve in Palm Springs. This was the first 'Rotarians at Work Day' of 2024 and the results were nothing short of astonishing! Within the space of two hours, a former landscaping debris dump site was cleared

and prepared for tree planting. At the small cost of some tired muscles and dirty clothes, Rotarians and Interactors proved once again that we are People of Action, this time supporting RI's seventh Area of Focus - Protecting the Environment! Learn more about Prescott Preserve at

<https://oswitlandtrust.org/prescott-preserve/>.

Rotarians Present: Jenny and Dennis Hacker, Bob Allan, Michele Nobleman, Jim Dunn, Jack Fitzsimmons, Roger Mickalko, Judy Bronstein, Chris Seidel, Walter Gendell  
Interactors Present: Rowan, Maria, Jorge, Anna

