



DESERTARIAN

PROGRAM

Reported by Margie Taft

MAY 17, 2023
QUICK GLANCE
AT THIS ISSUE

SPEAKER BONANZA!

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

SAFE SCHOOLS

We have had exceptional speakers at our last two meetings. The first was Jeremy Hobbs, Founder of the West Wind Foundation and a board member with the Inland Empire Community Foundation. He is also the founder of the Coachella Valley Impact Fund that addresses living conditions and economic opportunities for marginalized communities, especially in the Salton Sea area.

He gave a fascinating talk about the geological past, the current political complexities, and the problematic environmental future of the Salton Sea and how Rotary and other organizations can help participate in an effort to restore the health of the Salton Sea and its residents.

The next week, we had a fascinating glimpse into the workings of the Palm Springs International Piano Competition (PSIPC), formerly known as the Waring Piano Competition. This prestigious event brings some of the most talented young pianists from around the globe to compete for top honors. PSIPC showcases and highlights wide and diverse cultural musical offerings that serve the Palm Springs and Coachella Valley and beyond, in both grade and high schools and in public performances.

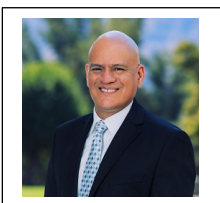
UPCOMING SPEAKER

Karl Kruger

May 24

Safe Schools Desert Cities

Eric Ornelas is the president of Safe Schools Desert Cities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports area LGBTQ+ students. Professionally, Eric is a full-time communications specialist & public affairs coordinator at The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage. Additionally, Eric is a host and producer of the Retro Lunch radio show at KGAY 106.5 FM in Palm Springs.



NOT TO MISS!

On **May 31**, we will be distributing the scholarships issued by the Rotary Club of Palm Springs Foundation Board. (see next page)



SCHOLARSHIPS

The committee reviewed applications from 23 students from Palm Springs High School. All 3 students were members of the PSHS Interact Club. The committee recommended the award of six scholarships of \$2,000 per student to be paid in two installments.

MEET THE WINNERS!

Lexia Covarrubias: Lexia is ranked 18 in the graduating class of 346. She is a member of the Interact club. Her father is disabled and her mother has been laid off from her job. Lexia plans to attend COD and later transfer to Loma Linda and intends to study Diagnostic Sonography. She has demonstrated need, academic ability and one of her references referred to her as “intellectually superior” to many of her peers.

Alma Guerrero: Alma is ranked 43 in the graduating class of 346. She is a member of the Interact Club. She has logged 188 hours of volunteer service to the community. She intends to study nursing at University of Oregon or University of Washington if possible. Her references described her as motivated and noted that she volunteered her summer to assist under-privileged kids at a local camp when no paid position was available.

Jacqueline Rodriguez: Jacqueline is ranked 97 in the graduating class of 346. She hopes to study nursing at UCI. She logged an impressive 520 hours of community service mostly related to medical. She is one of five children in the family and assists with her brother who has disabilities. Her grades were impacted after she lost hearing in one ear and then attended summer school to improve her grades. She was described as the “ideal student” with high grades, leadership and an independent spirit by one of her references.

Andrea Rojas: Andrea is ranked 82 in the graduating class of 346. She plans to attend COD and then transfer to Loma Linda to study Pediatric Sonography. She has participated in tennis and soccer. The tennis program is designed to benefit underprivileged kids and after being a part of the program for 10 years or more, also works with younger kids in the program to mentor them. She is described by her references as kind and puts forth effort and attention in her school work.

Destiny Isonhart: Destiny is ranked 94 in the graduating class of 346. She plans to study nursing at Cal State. She has a particular interest in pediatric nursing. She lives with her mother and two siblings. Her references describe her as organized and very good at balancing a variety of interests and priorities.

Jasmiel Monge: Jasmiel is ranked 36 in the graduating class of 346. She plans to study medicine/science at COD. She has participated in girls’ swimming and wrestling. She lives with her disabled mother and two siblings. Her references describe her as a model citizen, hard worker and proficient academic.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING THESE STUDENTS.

Rotary District 5330 Club: Palm Springs

Birthdays and Anniversaries for 05/01/2023 to 05/31/2023

Member Birthdays	Birthday
Barrett, Robert (ROBERT)	03 May
Femino, Domenico (MIMMO)	09 May
Nobleman, Michele (MICHELE)	09 May

Partner Birthdays	Member Name	Birthday
Femino, Paula	Femino, Domenico	06 May

Member Anniversaries	Start Date	Years	Years(P)	Total
Aikens, Marjorie Conley(MARJ)	05/20/17	6	0	6
Fitzsimmons, Jack(JACK)	05/17/22	1	0	1
Hacker, Dennis V.(DENNIS)	05/01/22	1	0	1
Hughes, Robert(ROBERT)	05/01/22	1	18	19
Rosenthal, Arlene(ARLENE)	05/17/22	1	0	1
Taft, Margie(MARGIE)	05/01/87	36	0	36

Wedding Anniversaries	Partner's Name	Anniversary	Years
Femino, Domenico(MIMMO)	Paula	05/24	26



IT'S ALMOST TIME!

Calling all District 5330 Rotarians!

Come to Indio (Fantasy Springs Casino) for the District Celebration – June 16/17, 2023!

The conference committee is already hard at work organizing a weekend full of information and excitement. So come:

- Listen to the amazing stories of our amazing speakers, Rotary Regional Foundation Chair – Shirley Grace and PDG Wade Nomura.
- Let's Celebrate our Achievements and Recognize all we have done together.
- Participate in a hands-on project – we're People of Action so let's act!
- Fantasy Springs Chef Freddy Rieger and his team will be tantalizing your tastebuds with tasty dishes. (Check out the Menu Below)

From everything we're hearing, this is going to be a popular event so register early and book your hotel room quickly.

See you in June at our District Celebration!

Don Casper, DG

MICHELE NOBLEMAN, President

KARL KRUGER, President-Elect

ED MC BRIDE, Secretary/Treasurer

STEVEN RICHITT, Public Relations Chair

FRANK PEABODY, Membership Chair

BOB ALLEN, Rotary Foundation Chair

JACK FITZSIMMONS, Int'l. Service Chair,
Desertarian Editor

JUDY BRONSTEIN, Youth Services Chair

PAUL RAFFER, M.D., iPast President

JOHN FRITCH, Past President

WALTER GENDELL, Board Member

DENNIS HACKER, Board Member

MARGIE TAFT, Board Member

JOHN WILLIAMS, Board Member

BARBARA LIPPERT Board

Member, Vocational Chair

TIM ELLIS, Ex-officio PSRC Foundation

Chair