



DESERTARIAN

PROGRAM

Reported by John Williams

MAY 3, 2023 QUICK GLANCE AT THIS ISSUE

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

SALTON SEA AND ROTARY

DISTRICT GALA

Our speaker today was our member, Jack Fitzsimmons. Jack is the Chairman of our Club's International Service Committee.

Jack pointed out several global risk issues that Rotary International is working on:

- Polio Plus
- Climate change; services for armed conflict refugees
- Malnutrition
- Economic Inequity

He pointed out that even though these efforts are vitally important, our club should also be supporting smaller, more focused efforts. Jack would like us to consider supporting the "Amigos to Guatemala" project that 25 other clubs are now supporting. The program includes four projects in Guatemala:

- providing clean and safe water supplies
- microloans for a beekeeping cooperative
- providing medical supplies
- expanding sustainable community gardens.

Jack described the steps Rotary International takes to manage our annual contributions to the Rotary International Foundation. After the money is invested for three years, it is returned to the District and disbursed back to the clubs for use in supporting qualified projects. Jack would like to see us commit our currently available \$1,300 to support this project.

Jack also reported that 70 high school students have been involved with developing the community gardens project funding by our Community Block Grant which will culminate in a Family Day at the high school where harvested food will be prepared and served by the PSHS Garden and Interact Club students.

Jack encourages any member interested in international service to contact him.

A huge thank you to Bob Hughes who not only made a BIG donation to our Annual RIF fund, but generously donated the black marble proceeds to support our international service projects.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Karl Kruger

May 10

**Program: Inland Empire
Community Foundation - Salton
Sea Community, Economic, and
Environment Fund**

Speaker: Jeremy Hobbs, West Wind
Foundation, IECF



The SSCEEF Fund was established in 2022 to support the critically urgent social, economic, and environmental resilience of the Salton Sea and surrounding communities.

**Read more about the Salton Sea,
Rotary and our Environmental
work on the next page.**

ENVIRONMENT

Jack Fitzsimmons

“The Salton Sea is rapidly shrinking. As the water recedes, it exposes toxic dust that is carried by the wind for miles, harming the respiratory health of the people living close to the sea.”

Allianza, Coachella Valley

“Imperial County, one of the poorest counties in California... as the highest rate of asthma-related emergency room visits for children in California – about double the state average, according to research in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.”

CNBC November 6, 2021

“The Salton Sea can either become a disaster or a model for overcoming environmental challenges Imperial County.”

Little Hoover Commission, State of California, November 15, 2021

The Salton Sea environmental crisis has been in the headlines in the last several years. Last November, the Federal Government announced a \$250 million investment to accelerate environmental projects around the shrinking Salton Sea to help address the deterioration of local ecosystems and help mitigate hazardous dust. Numerous stakeholders are involved: State(s) and Federal (US and Mexico) Governments, the Imperial Valley Irrigation District, corporate agricultural players, small farmers and ranchers, tribal leaders, local communities – and increasingly – investors in the potentially huge economic bonanza of lithium extraction from the seabed.

Why does this matters to us here in Palm Springs? The pollution created by the drying sea is blown up the length of the Coachella Valley by wind off the Gulf. Sure, we get the occasional “rotten egg” smell when the wind shifts, but that same wind is carrying the health-threatening particulates that make the local kids so sick. Air pollution does not respect geographic boundaries and with the drying of the sea caused by climate change and reduced water recharging from the at-risk Colorado River, the situation has become critical for *all* residents in the Coachella Valley.

Rotary International has designated the environment as our *Seventh Area of Focus*. The following page highlights what we are doing in this area and opportunities for us to get involved.

\$18.4 million



in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related causes in the past five years through our support of community economic development and water, sanitation, and hygiene projects.

“We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment. We empower communities to access grants and other resources, embrace local solutions, and spur innovation in an effort to address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.”

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN

Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do: coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy and planning for the future.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

One of the best ways is to join the [Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group](https://esrag.org) (ESRAG). esrag.org. The areas of focus are:

Biodiversity

Climate

Sustainable Living

Food Systems

Pollution

Circular Economy

ESRAG provides an organizing point and informational resources to share information with clubs and communities about sustainable practices and the global humanitarian crisis of climate change.

Action Model: Identify environmental leaders within the Rotary world, assist them in initiating environmental service projects that are meaningful to THEM, help where we can, and acknowledge and publicize their awesome work.

There is a western region chapter of ESRAG (USA: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY. Canada: AB, BC, SK) and they meet the second Monday of every month at 5:30 pm PDT, via Zoom. For more information, go to their [Facebook page](#).



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Doug Casper, District Governor

I would like to personally invite you to our District Celebration happening June 16 & 17 at Fantasy Springs Resort & Casino in Indio. Our theme for the celebration is simple – “We Made Rotary Relevant – Let’s Celebrate!”

We will kick the party off with Friday’s Hospitality Night in LIT Lounge on the casino floor. We have a special treat for you as Stephanie Blum will present her comedic genius for us with her one-woman stage show. We will celebrate Saturday with Clubs of Distinction Awards. The finalists of our District Music Competition and Four Way Test Speech Contest will showcase their talents. These young artists and speakers will amaze you.

At our Luncheon, we will feature Rotary Regional Foundation Chair for our Zone, PDG Shirley Grace, as our keynote speaker. Saturday afternoon will feature a “hands on” service project with the Galilee Center of the Coachella Valley. Our Saturday dinner keynote speaker will be PDG Wade Nomura from District 5240. We will wrap up the Gala with the most coveted Awards for this Rotary Year and you won’t want to miss the Passing the Banner Ceremony as we install DGE Jamie Zinn, our next great Governor for District 5330. Registration for our Celebration is open now for only \$175. Please join us June 16-17th & let’s celebrate our 525,600 Minutes together.

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 |

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KARL KRUGER, President-Elect

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JACK FITZSIMMONS, Int’l. Service Chair,
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