

ARTFUL INSPIRATION: A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR AND A LOOK FORWARD TO SEATTLE ART FAIR

Totem Report June 21, 2017

By Jeanne McKnight

Calling her second-to-last meeting in her Rotary year to order, **President Cathy Gibson** noted that the focus of the meeting was to “shine our Rotary spotlight” on the world of art and “artful inspiration.” She noted that to celebrate the first anniversary of **Club Manager, Caroline Bobanick**, she asked Caroline—who has a fine arts background—to deliver the Inspiration of the Day.



Caroline started her invocation by showing a slide of “Peaceable Kingdom,” the famous painting by Quaker painter, Edward Hicks. Little known fact: **Caroline’s** own Quaker ancestors came to this country in the late 1600s with a “Utopian vision of nonviolence.” They eventually settled in William Penn’s woods—now Pennsylvania. **Caroline** urged Rotarians to let the Quaker “spirit of the divine help you find your own spark,” and asked us to find “the place within you that inspires kindness and compassion for all of God’s creatures.”

Following **Caroline**, we welcomed back **Skip Roland**, who had been on leave to take care of his wife after a knee replacement. **Skip**, accompanied by **Marli Iverson**, led us in “The National Anthem.” **David Woodward** then introduced visiting Rotarians; **Cindy Runger** next took the mic to **Charley’s Table**, to introduce us to prospective members.



Ben Wicks next called for volunteers to hang charms for an event at Pike Place Market. Following **Ben**, **Connie Miller** introduced us to **Annie Peters**, Executive Director of Pet Partners (formerly the Delta Society).

Thanks to **Diankha Linear**, for proposing **Annie** for membership. **Joe Phillips** then introduced **Kevin Medved**, CPA, a tax accountant at Peterson Sullivan, LLP. **Kevin** was sponsored by **Jerry Adams** and **Chris Russell**.



President Cathy thanked the sponsors at all levels, who make the videotaping possible, and pointed out that the Rotary social media channels are getting increased interest: This past year, more than 5,000 people watched the Rotary YouTube channel; the Facebook page had more than 8,000 views.



Jim Duncan then took to the podium to remind us of all the good works that Rotary does in the world via The Rotary Foundation. Some stats: More than \$3+ Billion has been distributed on global projects. Our club alone has given over \$3M to The Rotary Foundation. If you haven't heard yet from **Jim**, you will: He is aiming for 100 percent participation from Seattle #4. Jim also acknowledged this year's 50 Paul Harris Fellows, listing how many years each Fellow has had that honor.

Next up: **Program Chair Lisa Mayfield** acknowledged fellow Rotarians for their contributions over the past year. "For 48 weeks, our Club pulls together a gathering of 250+ members and

guests," she said. "This is no small task and truly takes a village. Today is our opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in making our programs possible since last July 1."

In addition to past **Program Chairs**, **Lisa** thanked the **Communications & Social Media Team**, led by **Hamilton McCulloh** "who has also served as our meeting **photographer**," **Barbie Seifert**, and incoming **VP of Membership**, **Corinne Cavanaugh**. Next up: the **AV support team** from Prolumina, followed by **Rotary Online Sponsors**, who make it possible to tape our weekly meetings. She thanked **David Endicott** "for leading this charge," and asked all **Rotary Online Sponsors** to stand. Next to be acknowledged: the **Greeters' Committee**, led by **Jane Tornatore** and **Fedva Dikmen**; **Invocators** were acknowledged next, followed by the **Music Committee**, led by **Marli Iverson**—with a special thank you to the **Rotary Rogues**.

Lisa then acknowledged **Ken Grant** and the team of **Mic Handlers**; she then asked **Jane Tornatore**, **Kim Moore**, and **Rob LoBosco**, who welcome our **Prospective Members**, to stand for our applause.

Next, **Lisa** acknowledged **Past President Tim Bendokas**, who has taken the lead with celebrating **Monthly Anniversaries**, followed by the **New Member Introducers** and their leaders, **Joe Phillips** and **Rob LoBosco**. Next to be acknowledged: **Pete DeLaunay** and his mighty team of **Totem Reporters**, as well as the **After-Party** organizers. **Program Angels** were next to be recognized: "**Erick Slabaugh** referred to them as **Day Chairs**," observed **Lisa**, but "I am calling them our **Program Angels**. This group connected us with our 100+ speakers



this year.” Not to be ignored were the “many committees who assisted with programs this year”:

- **Education**
- **Sustainability**
- **Peacebuilders**
- **Diplomacy Task Force**
- **Membership**
- **SRSF board**
- **Service Committees** “who were involved with our two service parades.”

“Meetings would not happen without our fabulous Rotary Staff,” noted Lisa. “I want to give a huge shout out to **Caroline** and **Mariah (Kimpton)**. They are the glue that holds our club together. They put in countless, unseen hours...and always with a smile. We have been very grateful for their support and endless patience.”

“Truly earning his keep this year is everyone’s favorite, **Sergeant at Arms, Ken Grant**,” noted Lisa. “Ken makes the job of herding the program cats look easy. No matter how much was thrown at him each week, Ken has been able to get us out promptly at 1:30, which is no small feat. I have appreciated Ken’s calm presence and fun spirit.”

Lastly, Lisa said, “I want to thank our fearless and devoted leader, **President Cathy Gibson**. **Cathy’s** mountaineering skills have also proven to be valuable for persevering as our President: preparation, taking one step at a time, knowing how you finish the journey is just as important as how you start it, and never giving up. I admire **Cathy’s** positive attitude and willingness to tackle tough topics within the Club and in our programs. **President Cathy** received a standing ovation, as **Lisa** reminded us of the annual **President’s Party** on June 29th.

Passing the program baton to next year’s **Program Chair, Hamilton McCulloh**, **Lisa** reminded us that **Ken** was **Program Chair** under **Past President, Tom Betts**.



Lisa then introduced the main program, an exclusive preview of **Seattle Art Fair** which will be held August 3-6 at CenturyLink. Founded by Paul Allen in 2015 and produced by Vulcan and Art Market Productions, this event is in its third year in Seattle.

Program co-presenters were Laura Fried and Kira Burge. Fried is the Artistic Director of Seattle Art Fair; Laura is a curator and writer living in Los Angeles. Prior to that, she was a curator at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Kira Burge, the Senior Project Specialist at Vulcan, is a Pacific Northwest native who has produced art events and exhibitions

throughout the region for the past decade.

We learned that there are two parts to the event: The first is a commercial art fair, bringing together 80 galleries around the globe. The second is a series of “projects and talks” whose

purpose is to educate the community about the arts. The projects are “artist-driven,” said Burge, noting that projects are interspersed throughout the community.

With artists and galleries from all over the world, the event is expected to draw a large crowd. There will be “an entry point for everyone,” with small galleries featuring new artists, to big names for serious collectors.

As to advice for first-time Art Fair attendees? “Don’t be shy,” said Burge, who noted that while there is no overarching theme for the event, “themes always emerge” from the works. This year, she said, the unofficial theme is social activism. Children under 12 get in free, and there is a 20 percent discount for Rotarians.

After a brief question and answer period, **President Cathy** closed the meeting by thanking **Lisa** and acknowledging the work of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation in keeping that work going.