

# Rotary International President Germ Addresses the Club

## Totem Report January 11, 2017

By Mike Colbrese



As club members entered the meeting room at the Washington Convention Center, they were greeted by the sounds of the Rotary Rogues and the displays of several Seattle Rotary 4 service projects.

President Cathy Gibson welcomed the attendees and introduced Rabbi Daniel Weiner to the podium for the invocation. Rabbi Weiner spoke to the change in our nation's leadership and the need to begin the healing that will be necessary to keep our nation

strong. He urged the members to heed the messages in Rotary's Four-Way Test as the guidance necessary during this time of transition.

## Service club projects saluted

President Gibson then welcomed the Rotary Rogues to their stage and they performed “Let There Be Peace on Earth” while members of the various Seattle 4 service projects paraded in front of the club holding signs bearing the names of the numerous projects that the club sponsors throughout the year.



President Cathy then introduced several Rotary dignitaries in attendance including John Matthews, Rotary International Director and current and past district governors. She also introduced members of several different Rotary clubs and past Seattle 4 Rotary presidents. She thanked past president Tim Bendokas for organizing the recognition of the anniversaries of 39 current club members—those who are celebrating 10 to 43 years of membership.



## New member introductions

Grace Chien introduced new member Adel Sefrioui, who has a law degree, but whose real love is in education. He started Excel Charter School in Kent, which has a STEM focus and has mentored students at Cleveland High School; however, he is now involved with real estate.

Joe Phillips introduced Shouan Pan, the Chancellor of Seattle Colleges since July of 2016, who was born in China. After starting his career in America in Colorado and spending his early years in upper level administration in Arizona, he came to Seattle. He and his wife have two sons.



President Gibson then introduced Kathy Williams whose father and grandfather were former Seattle 4 presidents—her grandfather in 1941 and her father in 1983. Both men had a passion for international relations, particularly with Japan. Alan Merry spoke of the Arch Klumph Society and conferred membership on Kathy's parents, Walter and Marie Williams.

Former club president Sten Crissey introduced Rotary First Harvest Executive Director David Bobanick. Rotary First Harvest was started in 1982 to find a place to send the 25-33% of harvested food that was going to waste. After a brief video about the organization, David spoke to the work of over 1500 volunteers who have over the years packed 200 million pounds of food for 3 million families. He closed by thanking the club for its \$14,000 grant and personally commended club members Shelley Rotondo, Sten Crissey, Lisa Mayfield, and Tom Betts.



## John Germ, President of Rotary International

President Cathy introduced Rotary International President John Germ, who is board chair and chief executive officer of Campbell and Associates Inc. Germ joined Rotary in 1976 and has served Rotary in several capacities including vice president, director, Foundation trustee, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, RI training leader, and district governor. He has received RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are Benefactors and members of the Arch Klumph Society of The Rotary Foundation. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Using his southern charm and wit, President Germ addressed the group by speaking to the value that Rotarians provide the world by serving as humanitarians. He related stories about how Rotarians are simply people helping people and used that word as an acronym. "P is for PRIDE," he stated, in being dependable, trustworthy and reliable. "E is for EMPATHY," one person's



concerns for another which demonstrated in every community, national and international project that Rotarians undertake. "O is for OPPORTUNITY," to answer the question, "Would you like to be a Rotarian?" He challenged each attendee to invite someone to join the club. "O also stands for "OBLIGATION" to our world.

"P is for PERSERVERENCE," after which President Germ proudly told the stories of the eradication of polio in the Philippines and rest of the world. "It also stands for our Partnerships with such groups as the Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation that matches every Rotary dollar with \$2 dollars from their foundation. "L is for LEADERSHIP," in our communities, state, country and the world through our service to others he stated. "E is for ENTHUSIASM, for it must be with joy and charisma that we engage with our projects."

Following a standing ovation President Germ answered questions followed by another standing ovation.

President Gibson thanked everyone for their participation and reminded them of the After Party at the James Moore.