

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY
Christmas Party, December 11, 2017

Tonight was our Annual Christmas Party, and the beautiful Naples Hotel served as our venue for a most wonderful evening filled with friendship, fabulous food, and festivity! Thirty-three Naples Rotarians, one Wayland Rotarian, two soon-to-be Naples Rotarians, plus eleven guests, filled the eight tables of the main dining room. Our welcomed dinner guests included Kathleen, Katie, Bob, Sharon, Frank, Doug, Peggy, Jim, Clayton, Mindy, Terry, and Jean McMillan, our Assistant District Governor. Robin and Katharine, our inductees, rounded out the group.

As a prelude to our gala evening, we were treated to some lovely Christmas selections, compliments of our own Phil Bariteau, and some of his talented students, who played the flute. Many of us who attended the Naples Community Christmas Concert earlier this month were treated to an encore this evening by these talented young musicians. Among them was our outgoing Rotary Exchange Student for 2018-19, Phoebe Neubauer (at left in Jack's photo), who was introduced to us by Carrie Grove. Carrie also introduced Phoebe's parents, Melissa and Carl, and her sister, Frazey, who had come to hear her play "Silver Bells" with her ensemble.



We began our festivities with a heartfelt invocation by Steve, who asked us to remember fellow Rotarians who've passed: Bill V. and Jim T. He also asked us to keep Al, (and Fran), and Alex in our thoughts as they continue to heal. Steve reminded us to be grateful for our blessings, especially in this season, and to continue to be of service to others.

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President John asked for a round of applause for Skip and Judy, who always do a spectacular job in planning and preparing for this delightful annual event. The Hotel Staff was recognized for providing such an excellent buffet supper, including their customary friendly, efficient service. As we went round the dining room, each table introduced its special guests.



The highlight of the evening was the induction of Robin Lostetter and Katharine Smolinsky as our newest members! President John asked these ladies, along with Karen, as sponsor, to come to the front of the room to receive their membership badges, and Welcome Kits, prepared by Mike. A warm welcome was extended by all, as we are honored to have these two fine ladies become a part of the Naples Rotary Club!

Carrie announced that the thesauruses had been delivered to the sixth graders. She told a cute joke to accompany her message: What does a thesaurus have for breakfast? Answer: A synonym roll!! Then it was on to more hilarity, as we did our Gift Exchange. When your name was drawn, and called, you could come up, and choose a gift. Another option would be to "steal" another's gift instead! One could "pay" to keep his/her gift if it really was a "hit"! Much laughter ensued as the gifts made their "rounds", and the gift table, heaping with packages, was depleted! I think the gift that made the most "rounds", and seemed to be an attraction to many, was the Pack O' Pales!! Billy shows his Soothing Booties->

Many thanks to Jack for providing some great pictures from our special gathering this evening! They certainly reflect what a good time we had, and what a fun-loving club this is! Have a great week, everyone, and we'll see each other for our Noon Meeting on Monday, the 18th!

