

Judy Ginn

President 2007-2008

I loved being club president. But, for most of the year I felt like I was running just to keep up. In November, I was asked to be president. In December, I was elected. In February, I went to PETS as a complete greenhorn. After PETS I knew that I had no idea what I was doing. I was expected to prepare for a year as president, set all sorts of goals, find committee chairs, populate the committees, and organize an auction for the funds needed for all committee projects in the coming year. It was really overwhelming. This prompted me to insist that our presidential process needed to change. As a result, the one thing I am most proud of during my tenure as President is that the process for becoming president is now at least a two year "heads up" to carefully watch and learn before becoming president. The first year the member chairs the auction, may attend Rotary Academy if s/he has not already done so and attends board meeting as Auction Chair. The next year as president-elect, the member sits on the board, sets goals, attends PETS, organizes committee chairs and committees and gets ready to be president for a year. It gives me great satisfaction to know that no one else shall become president so unprepared as I was.

As a club we supported many projects locally and internationally. Our single largest local project is the on-going "adoption" of Bailey Gatzert Elementary School on the edge of the International District on Yesler between 12th and 14th. We supported students and teachers with money and hands-on. Among the projects are the Global Reading Challenge, keyboards and new dictionaries for the library, chess sets, ping pong tables, Dictionaries for 3rd Graders, funding and chaperones for field trips, funding for 4th and 5th graders to attend IslandWood School in the Woods for four days, the Great Stair Climb at Columbia Tower, the Ultimate Frisbee team, the cross-country running club and a Summer "bookmobile" which served students living near Gatzert. Locally we also gave dictionaries to 3rd graders in three other schools, participated in the Pioneer Square Graffiti Paint-out, The International District Clean-up and the ID SeaFair Parade. We provided eight \$1,500 college scholarships to graduating seniors. We helped with the Legacy House Christmas Party, sponsored the ID Girls Basketball team. A bit farther from home we helped sponsor the Rotary Rose Bowl Parade Float with the theme "Sharing World Literacy Day."

Internationally we supported financially three club members in projects. Barbara Gregg has an on-going project at the Nguyen Nga Center for Poor and Disabled Children in Vietnam. This project provides life changing surgery for children. Stephanie Ko has the Gifts of Hope in Vietnam and Macau which provides schools supplies and fresh fruits and vegetables to orphans. Susan Reba McIntyre works with the Lao PDR Village Health Worker Training which provides on-going medical information and translated medical books in Laos. Another project, jointly supported by the International Committee and the Vocational Committee, provided commercial cake decorating and sugar craft training for women and girls leaving the sex trade in Cambodia providing them with an alternative source of income. We also contributed to a 3-H Grant in Nepal lead by Rob Rose of Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club. The purpose of this 3-H Grant is to change the common perception of disabled people in Nepal as deserving the disability for something bad they did and that they are to be shunned or looked down upon.

We sponsored a Rotary Youth Summer Exchange for Anna Miner from Seattle and Laura Compagne from Libourne, France. Anna spent several weeks with Laura in France followed by Laura spending several weeks in Seattle with Anna. It was a very successful exchange. Both girls attended and spoke at a meeting of our club.

We took in 13 new members.

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