Paul D’Ambrosio, a NYSHA old-timer, talks about…

America’s Rome

Steve Elliott, NYSHA CEO, introduced Paul D’Ambrosio, a NYSHA vice-president and a nationally prominent curator of fine art.

“We talk about our collections as assets but people resources are equally important, Steve said, referring to Paul, the brains and the curatorial genius behind NYSHA’s blockbuster art exhibition titled ‘America’s Rome.’ “We’re fortunate to have had Paul at NYSHA throughout his 25-year career,” Steve added. As part of his duties Paul also oversees the NYSHA Library and NYSHA’s publishing program.

America’s Rome, an exhibition of 120 paintings, opened earlier this year and it will run through the end of December. “Don’t miss seeing this,” Paul advised. “The scale and quality of this collection of art works is unprecedented. Our audience has been building all year long.” America’s Rome has recently received rave reviews from critics in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

The idea for the America’s Rome exhibition began a score of years ago when Paul was a student of Professor William L. Vance at Boston University, an expert on 19th century American artists who had studied their craft in Rome and in Italy generally. Vance had written extensively on how their experiences abroad shaped American artistic expression both in Italy and in America.

Even as a student Paul had notions about the possibilities of an art exhibition based on Vance’s scholarship. But, it wasn’t until recently that he found himself in a position to translate his notions into a vision and then into a full-blown exhibition. To get there, Paul’s first task was to look up his old professor.

Professor Vance had long since retired from academic life and Boston University had lost track of him. Someone thought Vance might have removed to Italy to live. Paul fired off an e-mail to his cousin Giuseppe who called all of the Vances in Rome until he found Paul’s former mentor. Paul and Vance then teamed up to put America’s Rome together for a 2009 opening.

“Rome was more than a place to learn the history and process of art,” Paul explained. “Rome was an important place to Americans in the 19th century — a democracy that declined and fell and thus was a warning to America.” Paul’s power point slide series gave us but a sampling of the exhibition’s breadth and depth. We viewed works by Jasper F. Cropsey, John Vandelyn, Martin Johnson Heade, Thomas Cole, George Inness, John Gadsby Chapman, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Hicks. “The Hudson River school of landscape artists had its birthplace in Rome. In Italy and the surrounding countryside, they saw the grandeur of Rome and painted large canvases with grand themes that reflect poetic, romantic ideas,” Paul explained. Roman ruins contrasted sharply with pastoral scenes in the Italian countryside. “American painters matured in Rome,” Paul concluded.

Paul has also matured in his 25 years or so at NYSHA. “Ed Stack, a long-time Clark Estates executive started calling me an old-timer 10 years ago.”
Today’s Program

September 15
New Member Profile
John Mason

Forthcoming Programs

September 15
Primary Election Day
Polls Open 12 Noon — 9 p.m.

September 19 & 20
Saturday & Sunday
AppleFest at The Fly Creek Cider Mill

September 22
New Member Profile
Diana Nicols-DiLorenzo

September 29
The Otesaga Hotel
Tom Heitz, Otsego Town Historian

October 6
Club Meeting at The Farmers’ Museum
Louis Jones Activity Center
$15 per person/In Advance
“The Doctor’s Office” Erin Crissman

October 13
New Member Profile — T.B.A.

October 20
“A Bad Day for the Yankees”
Gabe Schechter

October 27
The Otsego Land Trust
Executive Director Peter Hujik

Two new members were inducted at our luncheon meeting on Tuesday, September 8. Dion Wade (second from left) and Cathy Andrews (far right) stand near the podium as Martin Tillapaugh (out of camera range) speaks from the podium. New member sponsors Jeff Woeppel (third from left) and Mike Jerome (far left), look on. The club’s roster now numbers 82 active members along with eight honorary members for a total of 90, of which 59 are men and 31 are women.

Club Attendance Report (January—June 2009)
26 Scheduled Meetings
100% (26 of 26 Meetings Attended)
Bill Glockler; Tom Heitz; Jim High; Paul Kuhn; Margaret Savoie; Ralph Snell; & David Values.
Note: Chuck Carrier attended 8 of 8 meetings;
John Mason attended 11 of 11 meetings.

96% (25 of 26 Meetings Attended)
Will Monie; Donna Shipman
Note: Lois Warrell attended 20 of 21 meetings (95%)

92% (24 of 26 Meetings Attended)
Hugh MacDougall
Note: Mike Jerome attended 12 of 13 meetings.

88% (23 of 26 Meetings Attended)
Richard Blabey; David Bliss; Marge Landers; Frank Leo; & Ted Peters

85% (22 of 26 Meetings Attended)
Teri Barown; Anne Geddes-Atwell; Jeff Katz; Chuck Newman; Cathy Raddatz
Note: Carl Good attended 19 of 23 meetings (83%)

81% (21 of 26 Meetings)
Bill Coleman; Lyn Edinger & Mary Wright
Squirts from The Oil Can
Announcements & Miscellany
Summary of the September 8th Business Meeting

John Mason came to the podium to present the invocation. Before beginning, John reminded us that we were approaching the September 11th 2001 anniversary, known familiarly as 911 and drawing in part from the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, who was born in 1182, John began, and we quote: “Think about the situations that you are involved in that require peace, consolation, hope, light and joy — God (speaking) in the stairwell — you say that you will never forget where you were when you heard the news on September 11, 2001. Neither will I. I was on the 110th floor in a smoke-filled room with a man who called his wife to say “Good-Bye.” I held his fingers steady as he dialed. I gave him the peace to say, ‘Honey, I am not going to make it.’ I was with his wife when he called. I held her up as she realized he wasn’t coming home that night. I was in the stairwell on the 23rd floor when a woman cried out for help. I had been knocking on the door of her heart for 50 years! I was at the base of the building with the priest ministering to the injured. I took him home to tend to his flock in Heaven. I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the frightened souls there, comforting and assuring them that their faith has saved them. I want you to know that I saw every face; I knew every name — though not all know me. Some met me for the first time on the 86th floor. Some sought me with their last breath. Some chose, for the final time, to ignore me, but I was there. I did not place you in the towers or in the airplanes that day. You may not know why, but I do. September 11th, 2001 was not the end of the journey for you. But someday your journey will end and I will be there for you as well. Seek me now while I may be found. For I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.” And, continuing with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi — “Lord, make us an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. So, remembering that we are people of service over self, Lord help us to help you to let there be peace. Amen.”

Sergeant-at-Arms Charles Ellsworth introduced our guests. Rotarian Dick Brooks, one of our former members was back in town with his wife, Rotarian Donna Schultz. Father Mark Michael, Rector of Christ Church Episcopal, was the guest of Bob Birch. Anne Geddes-Atwell was hosting Jim Atwell. When introduced, Jim said he had come with Anne because “I felt the need for human warmth and Rotarians are full of that.” Bob Birch presented the “Rotary Minute” taken from a booklet titled “The ABCs of Rotary. Bob chose a passage giving the official definition of Rotary in 31 well-chosen words. We quote: “Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.”

Our musical interlude was conducted by Jim Howarth standing in for Ted Peters. Perhaps thinking of the primary elections on Tuesday, September 15, Jim chose an old Franklin Delano Roosevelt campaign song — Happy Days Are Here Again (Let us sing a song of cheer again) followed by School Days (You were my queen in calico). Jim High collected the happy dollars. John Mason gave thanks for St. Francis of Assisi whose prayer he had paraphrased as part of the invocation. Jeff Woeppe1’s dollars went to welcome our two new members. Nan Apps reported that Italian exchange student Carola Neri (Italy) had arrived safely. Doug Geertgens thanked Bob and Marcy Birch for hosting a bar-b-que for exchange students and families at the Barnyard Swing on Route 28 south. Then, Doug said, he was putting in $45 for his 45 years of wedded bliss. “It gets better every year,” Doug said. Jeff Katz said that he and son Joey had made a recent pilgrimage to see the New York Yankees play at their new stadium in the Bronx. Jeff said he was amused by a sign on a storefront proclaiming “All Merchandise 99 Cents or More.” Richard Blabey reported that his daughter had started her work as a teacher. Tom Lieber was pleased to see his friend Dick Brooks again and to meet his new partner Donna Schultz who is a past Rotary president. Dick Brooks put his own dollar in the hat and said he was happy not to be on call for chicken-bar-b-cuing at the forthcoming Harvest Fest. Steve Elliott put in a dollar for Gretchen Sorin who was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award for her museum work even though she’s only done with half a lifetime. Tom Heitz, Editor
Rotary Club of Cooperstown (Revised 09/15/09)

Membership Roll
(By Date of Affiliation)
Hon. = Honorary Member; PHF = Paul Harris Fellow;
SPH = Sustaining Paul Harris; PDG = Past District Governor
a. = Affiliation Date; b. = Month/Day of Birth

Howard Talbot, Hon; PHF; a. 12/51; b. 10/06
Ted Peters, PHF; a. 12/59; b. 05/12
Ed Bagley, Hon; a. 06/61; b. 07/07
Cliff Kachline, Hon; PHF; a. 07/70; b. 07/25
Doug Walrath, PHF; a. 10/70; b. 12/11
Bob Schlather, PHF; a. 01/79; b. 05/03
Will Monie, PHF; a. 09/80; b. 11/21
George Cade, PHF; a. 12/80; b. 12/18
Roger Smith, Hon. a. 01/12/82; b. 04/28
Jeff Woeppe, a. 03/02/82; b. 08/06
Ferd Thering, Hon; PHF; a. 05/82; b. 02/12
Mike Jerome, PHF; a. 08/83; b. 07/23
Bob Birch, PHF; a. 09/23/86; b. 12/30
Jim Woolson, PHF; a. 03/87; b. 10/05
Hugh MacDougall, PHF; a. 04/87; b. 08/30
John Ramsey, PHF; a. 06/87; b. 03/03
Chuck Carrier, PHF; a. 01/88; b. 06/19
Bruno Talevi, PHF; a. 04/88; a. 08/16
Doris Holdorf, a. 01/02/90; b. 07/04
Joan Bagley, a. 05/22/90; b. 06/07

Catherine Black, Hon; PHF; PDG; a. 01/22/91; b. 04/22
Ellen Tillapaugh-Kuch, PHF; a. 10/91/91; b. 02/16
Cathy Raddatz, PHF; a. 12/29/92; b. 03/02
Tom Heitz, PHF; a. 03/02/93; b. 12/20
Bill Coleman, PHF; a. 04/13/93; b. 02/16
Pati Grady, a. 01/11/94; b. 03/07
Jim Gates, PHF; a. 02/20/96; b. 03/09
Michael Otis, PHF; a. 05/28/96; b. 07/17
Carol Waller, PHF; a. 05/28/96; b. 08/19
Susan Streek, PHF; a. 11/19/96; b. 04/04
Mary Jo McPhail, a. 12/09/97; b. 01/03
Anne Geddes-Atwell, PHF; a. 01/27/98; b. 07/01
Carol Cade, PHF; a. 02/16/99; b. 02/23
Tom Lieber, PHF; a. 11/16/99; b. 07/15
Margaret Savoie, PHF; a. 12/07/99; b. 05/20
Francis May, PHF; a. 07/25/00; b. 04/02
Patricia Donnelly, PHF; a. 05/29/01; b. 02/24
Jim R. High, PHF; PDG; a. 09/04/01; b. 04/03
Michael V. Coccoma, a. 12/18/01; b. 03/30
Mary R. Wright, PHF; a. 02/19/02; b. 07/01
Vicki Gates, PHF; a. 02/26/02; b. 11/06
Dave Bliss, a. 04/30/02; b. 10/28
Chad Welch, a. 09/17/02; b. 08/14
Mary Leonard, a. 09/17/02; b. 01/13
Carl Good, a. 04/01/03; b. 02/12
Lois Warrell, PHF; a. 04/08/03; b. 09/24
John Irvin, PHF; a. 04/08/03; b. 11/20
Bill Glockler, PHF; a. 08/05/03; b. 10/18
Paul Kuhn, PHF; a. 08/05/03; b. 05/14
Jane F. Clark, Hon; PHF; a. 01/08/04; b. 05/11
Doug Geertgens, PHF; a. 03/02/04; b. 01/04
Dennis Jakubowicz, a. 03/02/04; b. 07/05
Chuck Newman, PHF a. 03/02/04; b. 09/04
Betsy D. Jay, a. 05/18/04; b. 08/02
Martin Tillapaugh, PHF; a. 09/07/04; b. 11/29
David Vaules, PHF; a. 10/05/04; b. 02/14
Sundar Samuel, a. 09/20/05; b. 11/16
Donna Shipman, PHF; a. 10/04/05; b. 09/25
Will Green, a. 01/24/06; b. 01/29
Stephen Elliott, a. 02/07/06; b. 08/20
Scott Barrett, a. 02/14/06; b. 09/14
Teri Barown, a. 05/16/06; b. 04/17
Jim Kevil, a. 07/25/06; b. 03/15
Lyn Edinger, a. 10/03/06; b. 07/29
Jake Maijala, a. 10/31/06; b. 06/22
Ray Holohan, a. 01/09/07; b. 09/21
Jami Stegman, a. 03/20/07; b. 09/14
Ben Novellano, a. 02/20/07; b. 11/03
Marjorie Landers, a. 05/01/07; b. 07/22
Mary Earl, a. 07/31/07; b. 11/28
Frank Capozza, a. 11/13/07; b. 11/27
Ralph Snell, a. 12/18/07; b. 11/23
Richard J. Blabey, a. 03/18/08; b. 03/11
Charles A. Ellsworth, a. 03/18/08; b. 11/19
Jamie Stegman, a. 03/18/08; b. 10/18
Tabetha Ramhincoe, PHF; a. 05/13/08; b. 04/09
Tim Wiles, a. 05/20/08; b. 06/28
Frank Leo, a. 06/17/08; b. 03/38
Irene Fassett, Hon; PHF; a. 06/24/08; b. 01/20
Jim Howarth, a. 09/09/08; b. 07/02
Nancie Apps, a. 11/18/08; b. 10/28
Bruce Markusen, a. 12/16/08; b. 01/30
Ryan W. Miosek, a. 04/21/09; b. 12/09
John M. Mason, a. 04/21/09; b. 07/09
Diana Nichols-Difirenzo, a. 05/05/09; b. 11/14
Andrew R. Marietta, a. 05/12/09; b. 10/02
Angie L. Erway, a. 05/12/09; b. 07/01
Amanda May, a. 07/28/09; b. 12/29
Dion Wade, a. 09/08/09; b. 11/09
Catherine Andrews, a. 09/08/09; b. 07/13
82 Active Members; 8 Honorary Members
90 Total Members / 59 Men / 31 Women

Outbound Exchange Students: 3
Outbound Exchange Students: 6
First Paul Harris Fellows:
Joe Vidosic  Marj. Tillapaugh (Hon)
Non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellows:
Donna Lamb High  Walter Rich  Santa Claus
Barbara Harman  Anita High  Martha Vaules
Karine Rich  Virginia Heitz  Marianne Bez

Rotary Club of Cooperstown (Club No. 4868)
www.clubrunner.ca/cooperstown
Distict 7170
Sam Koury, District Governor
(Oneonta)
Club Officers:
2009-2010
William “Bill” Glockler, President
President-Elect: Open
Vice-President: Open
Paul Kuhn, Past-President
Margaret Savoie, Secretary
Assistant Secretary-Cathy Raddatz
Jake Maijala, Treasurer
Charles Ellsworth, Sgt.-at-Arms

Directors:
Marjorie Landers 2008-2010
Donna Shipman 2008-2010
Chad Welch 2008-2010
Frank Capozza 2009-2011
Ralph Snell 2009-2011
Teri Barown 2009-2011

The Oil Can Editor
Tom Heitz
tcooperstown@aol.com

Cooperstown Rotary Website:
www.clubrunner.ca/cooperstown

2009-2010
Outbound Exchange Students:
Emilie Davidson (Belgium)
Anna Weber (Belgium)
Ryan Davine (Germany)
Kristel Tandle (Germany)
Julia Nelson (France)
Chelsea Moakler (Argentina)