

More than Books

The Quotable Picasso

Each year, in her “From the Library” column, which began in 1992 and ran in “The Journal-Standard” for 12 years, Library Board Member Carol Maglietta would write, “Let’s put aside talk of books, bricks, buildings, and budgets. Instead, let’s celebrate the season,” and the column would continue with a series of holiday quotations.

By way of acknowledging Ms. Maglietta’s extraordinary work on the board and her 554 “From the Library” columns, I’ve continued that tradition in one way or another.

My inspiration for this year’s column is the 2014 FHN Festival of Trees theme, which was a quote from Pablo Picasso: “The purpose of art is washing the daily dust of life from our souls.” It was so lovely that I wanted to see what else Picasso had to say. As you might imagine, he had quite a lot to say about painting, art, and life.

Here, in no particular order, are some of his observations:

“Everything you can imagine is real.”

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”

“Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth.”

“Ah, good taste! What a dreadful thing! Taste is the enemy of creativeness.”

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone”

“When I was a child my mother said to me, 'If you become a soldier, you'll be a general. If you become a monk, you'll be the pope.' Instead I became a painter and wound up as Picasso.”

“I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it.”

“It takes a very long time to become young.”

“Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.”

“God is really only another artist. He invented the giraffe, the elephant and the cat. He has no real style, He just goes on trying other things.”

“The world doesn't make sense, so why should I paint pictures that do?”

“It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.”

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

“Good Artists Copy, Great Artists Steal”

“Go and do the things you can't. That is how you get to do them.”

“When art critics get together they talk about Form and Structure and Meaning. When artists get together they talk about where you can buy cheap turpentine.”

Trees on display

There are 25 entries on display at the library in this year's FHN Community Festival of Trees. Participants, including schools, churches, service groups, and clubs, decorated trees to compete for cash prizes awarded by a panel of judges and the public. A first, second and third prize was awarded for \$500, \$300 and \$150, respectively, for People's Choice and awards from a panel of local judges.

The votes are in! Come to the library now through January 2 to see the trees and find out which ones are the lucky prize winners.

Library Director Carole Dickerson may be reached by phone at 815-233-3000, ext. 216, or by email at cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org.