

The New Jersey Kiwanian

Governor Howard's Take

It's 6 weeks into the year as I write this and things are looking great. I visited Circle K's annual Insight gathering and the enthusiasm could not be matched. I was able to present charters to three new clubs since my last update and it's great to be able to bring Kiwanis back to areas that have a long history.

From a numbers standpoint, we've already recouped most of last year's membership losses. 24 of our clubs have positive growth for the year. Ask yourself what you are doing to help grow your club and organization. Almost all of us joined this great organization for the same reason. Someone asked us to join!

As I said last month, the District has lots of resources to help your club function and grow. However, you need to ask for help. We at the District can't know what your club needs. Feel free to contact me and I'll try to set your club up to help your club. I'm visiting an average of two clubs every week and would love to visit yours.

I'd also like to welcome **Anthony Thomas** from the Caldwell-West Essex Club and **Ken Macari** from the Edison Club to our District team. Anthony has stepped up to be Partnerships Coordinator and Ken has stepped up to be our Spiritual Aims and Values Chair. The District Team still needs more help. If you're interested, please let me know.

Finally, many of you know our District Secretary, **Nancy Hart-Esposito** has announced that this will be her last year as District Secretary. Please join the entire leadership team in thanking Nancy for her service. She's not leaving Kiwanis – just passing the leadership torch to someone else.

Until next month, thanks again for all y'all do.

HOWARD I. GORDON

Governor, New Jersey District,
Kiwanis International

higesq@optonline.net



Philpot Honored

KI Vice President **Michael Mulhaul** presents a Legion of Honor Award to **Sue Philpot**, center, for her 25 years of service through her involvement with the **NJ District**, Kiwanis Club of **Greater Freehold** and the Kiwanis Club of **Asbury Park**.

Submitted by Linda Ewerk

Wayne Club is Chartered



It's What's **INSIDE** That Counts



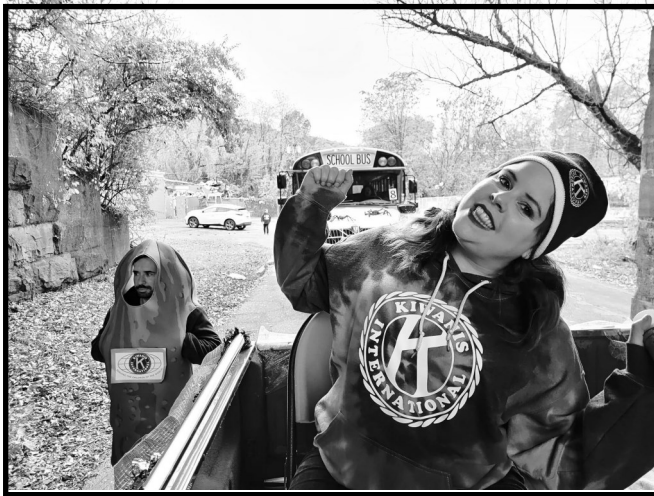
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Flashback to Local Halloween Fun

Facebook photos



Halloween brings out the kid in all of us. Here are some shots of Kiwanis Club members providing fun for kids in their towns. Why do we do it? For the kids!



Collaboration Counts

The Franklin-Somerset Kiwanis Club reports they attended two Trunk and Treat events the weekend of October 28, 2024. They were at the Trunk or Treat in Somerset NJ where they won 6th place for decorations.

They also went to the Trunk or Treat in Piscataway where they supported the **Piscataway Police Benevolent Association**, and an organization called **AttachAvi**. At this event, they participated with the **Kiwanis Club of Edison** for an interclub event. [No need to reinvent the wheel– find out what organizations are doing in the town and ask to join them!](#)



Submitted material

Bloomfield Kiwanis Holds Food Drive

The Kiwanis Club of Bloomfield maintains the free **Little Food Pantry** at **Bloomfield Library**. 7 days a week, 365 days a year hungry residents can grab a free meal. However, the burden of supplying all this food is a hefty responsibility for the small club of sixteen.

Submitted by Peter Ebling

Consequently, Bloomfield Kiwanis ran a food drive at **Brookdale ShopRite** this past month. Kiwanis member **Kevin Donahue** secured permission to run the drive, six members helped supervise the drive, and Key Club advisor **Colleen Halpin** got eight wonderful Key Club members to staff the drive.

An estimated \$2,000 worth of food, laundry detergent, diapers, baby food and pet food was donated by generous shoppers, and another \$205 was collected in cash donations. The food was sent to the library to resupply the

Little Food Panty.

The laundry detergent, diapers and baby food were all delivered to the **Human Needs Food Pantry** in Montclair, and the pet food went to **Bloomfield Animal Shelter**.



Little Food Pantry



'FUN'DRAISING IDEA

Looking for an easy fundraiser?

Clark Kiwanis and the **ALJ HS Key Club** join forces twice a year for town-wide clothing drives. They get their name out there on Social Media and put the kids' manpower to work! Pictured here with Kiwanian **Ron Pask**, top left and Key Club advisor/Kiwanian **Meghan Ryan**, standing, far right.

Submitted by Susan Dougherty



'Man of the Hour: Governor Howard'



Randolph Club Celebrates One of their Own

The **Randolph Kiwanis Club** held their annual awards ceremony and officer installation on Sept. 27, 2023 at the Randolph Diner. The man of the hour was Randolph's own **Howard Gordon**, who was installed as **Governor of the New Jersey District of Kiwanis**. Thank you to **Michael Mulhaul**, **Vice President of Kiwanis International** for doing the installation honors! A hearty congratulations to our slate of officers installed for the 2023-2024 service year.

We recognized our friend to the club, **Kevin White** from the **Morris County Aktion Club**, with a **Carrington-Swain award** - a thank you for all of his help at the Randolph Freedom Festival throughout the years. And the club honored **Geoff Price** with a life membership to Kiwanis in recognition of his years of dedicated service.

Submitted by Arlene Price

At right, VP of Kiwanis International **Michael Mulhaul** congratulates **Geoff Price**.



Submitted by Jessica CM Almeida

Belleville K-Family in Parade

It was a family affair participating in the Veterans Day Parade.





A Wall of Key Club Memories

Hey, Why Don't I See Any of Our Club Activities in this Newsletter?

It just might be that we don't know about what's happening in your club! Share your upcoming events and showcase success stories so we can feature you!

Send no more than 200 words by the 10th of each month to NJ Kiwanian editor Susan Dougherty at:

crusadersue@hotmail.com



A Labor of Service Continues

Last night I finished a blanket made from my Key Club t-shirts from over 25 years. I began as a Key Club advisor at **Parsippany Hills** during the '98-'99 school year and continued until my retirement in June 2020. Upon my retirement, I joined the **Kiwanis Club of Greater Parsippany** and was appointed the SLP Director for them. I am also the Kiwanis Advisor to the Key Clubs of **Parsippany Hills HS and Parsippany HS**. Additionally I was asked in 2020 to join the Kiwanis Committee for Key Club to become a **Zone Administrator**, and was recently appointed **Assistant DA for NJ Key Club**. This quilt contains shirts from Key Club conventions from 1999-2023 (no shirt for 2021 as the conference was virtual). These shirts hung on the wall of my classroom until my retirement. **Bonnie Sturm**

Now the Shoe is On the Other Foot

Submitted by Peter Ebling



Want to Raise \$1,500 or More without Having to Make an Upfront Investment?

The Kiwanis Club of Montclair ended its third annual shoe drive in November. The club collaborates with the **Fundraising Company of California** and must accumulate a minimum of 700 pairs of gently used athletic shoes, sneakers, work and hiking boots — no holes, no tears.

To amass this lofty number, the club sets up collection bins in every school and at cooperating, local organizations including the Montclair YMCA, Fleet Feet, TD Bank, AE Fitness, Tierney's Tavern and Watchung Booksellers.

Once the magic number of **700** is reached, the donated shoes are counted, boxed, stacked on pallets and shrink wrapped. The Fundraising Company sends a truck to pick up the shoes and pays the club \$1.50 a pound, which in the past averaged \$1,700. The club then turns the money into scholarships for **Montclair High** graduates who exemplify the Kiwanis values of community service.

The shoes are then shipped overseas to micro-entrepreneurs in Africa and South America, mostly women, who re-condition the shoes, and sell them. It's a win for the people who donate the shoes and get rid of unwanted clutter. It's a win for the environment when the old shoes don't end up in a garbage dump. It's a win for the club that raises scholarship money and a win for enterprising women in developing nations. It's a great way to raise money without prohibitive, upfront expenses!

Building Relationships in the Community of Garwood



The new **Builders Club in Garwood** is off and running. According to **Michelle Coyne**, the adviser (an ALJ High School graduate and former Key Club member), their first activity of the year was quite the success. They held a craft session in early November with the Village at Garwood.

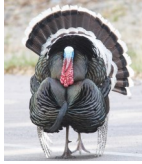
Additionally, the preteens wrote Thanksgiving cards and thank you notes for veterans for the Menlo Park facility. Then they got the whole school involved in creating thank you and happy holiday cards for police, rescue workers, nurses, and fire fighters.



An electric adviser can ignite the flame with enthusiasm.

Thanksgiving Laughs and Exciting Updates

Greetings from the anticipated post-Thanksgiving food coma zone! If you can read this message without the sound of your stomach still echoing with turkey regrets, congratulations! Wishing you a full recovery from the feast and the strength to tackle those leftovers. May your elastic waistbands forgive you, and your holiday spirit remain intact!



PLEASE NOTE...

1. Congrats to **Connie Keller** for winning the \$10 Starbucks gift card in the first newsletter!!

2. **Nancy Hart Esposito**, our District Secretary, is stepping down on September 30, 2024, creating a vacancy for the 2024-2025 term. Huge thanks to Nancy for her dedication. We're actively seeking a passionate replacement by December 31, 2023. Interested

or know someone perfect? Reach out to martinslezak1995@gmail.com or apply directly here: <https://forms.gle/eVspYsFWrzu5kZV86>

3. I aim to assemble a dynamic team of District Chairs/Committee members to propel our initiatives. If you're passionate about a specific area or have a vision for enhancing our district, join my "**Energy Bus.**" Together, we can achieve remarkable feats. Access job descriptions here: [2024-2025 Position Descriptions](#).

For this edition, each **Kiwanian who joins a committee for the 2024-2025 year**, will prompt a \$2 personal donation to the NJ District Foundation (this is only valid until the next edition of the Kiwanian). Your involvement is vital to our shared success. Join us!

Warm regards,
Martin Slezak
Governor-Elect



Point Pleasant Volunteers Give Back



Scores of volunteer organizations gathered on November 4th to give back to the community at large. Congratulations to the **Point Pleasant** Kiwanis for organizing this worthwhile event.



BookSmiles is one of NJ Kiwanis District's partners. Please check their website to see how your club can get involved.

Santa Comes a Bit Early

Submitted by Donna Banny-Fuhr



Franklin-Somerset Kiwanis Club decided to help Santa a little early before Thanksgiving by donating 10 boxes filled with toys, books and activities through **Operation Shoebox**. Representing our club was **Mitchell Fuhr**.

New Leaders for Tri-Town

Lt. Governor **Mary Ann Simonenko** pins new president/treasurer **Frank Cahill** at the recent instal-



lation ceremony of Tri-Town Club. Along with **Aysha Avalos** managing the club's administrative duties, according to the president, "The Kiwanis Club of Tri-Town is poised for a year filled with accomplishments, community service, and robust member engagement."



Installation Ceremonies Continue

With the new Kiwanis service year of October 1 comes the celebration of new members, and installation of officers. Here, **Nicholas Limanov**, Lt. Governor of Division 9, right, has the honor of welcoming new members and installing the officers at the **Greater Rockaway Club**.

Kiwanis Member Honored



Frank Cahill

Congratulations to **Frank Cahill**, the Publisher of **Morris Focus**, who was honored recently by the **Morris County Chamber of Commerce** for his service to the community.