



# Jackson Downtown Kiwanian

1203 First St. Jackson, MI 49203 Club phone: (888) 551-9699

Local: [www.jacksonkiwanis.com](http://www.jacksonkiwanis.com) / Facebook: The Kiwanis Club of Jackson, Michigan

District: [www.mikiwanis.org](http://www.mikiwanis.org) / International: [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)



## MARCH 2015

**“Be a Part of Living History  
with personal growth and an increased imagination”**

It is winter and COLD out as I write this. The month of March promises the first day of spring and time to look forward to Easter! While we look forward to warmer weather, we have been working on raising funds to be able to donate to local youth-based causes. The Chili Golf event was a great success and raised just under \$6,000. Several new members attended and discovered just how much fun it is to be a Kiwanian. The golfers had fun with minimal snow and everyone got their fill of chili and brats. Thank you to the committee for planning this 29<sup>th</sup> annual Kiwanis event and to the prize donors who made the participants feel appreciated. The Racing for Dollars fund raiser will take place just as this letter goes out to members. I am sure it will also be a success since its committee is working hard to make it just as great as it has been for the past 8 years.



Our club is sad at the passing of two very committed, long-time members. Leo Harley and Gene Bills will be greatly missed! There is more information about them on page six in this newsletter. Thank you to those who sent nearly \$800 in donations to our Foundation in memory of Leo. You can also donate to the Foundation in Gene’s memory. Our Board donated \$200 to the Foundation as well, in Leo’s and Gene’s memory.

Be sure to read through this whole newsletter as it has information on a whole lot of activities coming up this spring and summer. Every one of the activities coming up **needs the support of members**. Don’t let a few carry the load. Please look to see what you can step up and support. It can start with buying one can of nuts for \$20 to help finish this holiday project. Offer to join a flag team if you are not on one. Plan to help with the ‘Kids Against Hunger’ project on the morning of May 8. See what help is still needed at Bennett Elementary School. Consider inviting a few friends to the June casino trip with fellow Kiwanians -- especially if you have never gone to a casino! My spring challenge to each member, old and new, is to get involved-have fun-show up- network-be an active part of the greatest service club in the area! – President Beth

<p><b>March Programs</b></p> <p>6: Travel Adventure Film Makers, The Denny's</p> <p>13: Patrice Marner, Allegiance Hospice and its summer camp for grieving children</p> <p>20: President’s Choice: Fun tribute to a few past members</p> <p>27: Dr. Bill Bruce and the Jackson High School choir sing to us</p> <p>Thanks to this month’s Program Chair: Harold Miller</p>	<p><b>Inside:</b></p> <p><b>Pg. 2</b> Bennett</p> <p><b>Pg. 3-5</b> Club News</p> <p><b>Pg. 5</b> New Member</p> <p><b>Pg. 6</b> Tribute to Leo and Gene</p> <p><b>Pg. 7</b> Calendar</p>
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### Kiwanis Club Officers

President

Beth Philo

President-Elect

Don Schroeder

Vice President

Rick Mills

Treasurer

Chandra Howard

Secretary

Joe Wolfe

Past President

Glenn Pascoe

### Club Directors

Tommy Amidon

Carolyn Brown

Linda Brzezinski

Mary Lou McFadden

Mary Anne Riley-Seamans

Jim Philo

Ted Wilson

### Lt. Governor District 11

Adam Howard

### Club Meetings

Friday Meetings at noon at  
Cascades Manor House,  
1970 Kibby Rd.

Evening Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6 p.m. at  
the Hunt Club

Board Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at  
noon at the Hunt Club,  
1514 Daniel Rd.

Newsletter Editor:

Jessica Mitchell

### ***Kiwanis Trivia:***

Our club was formed on  
January 2, 1918 but the  
official charter  
presentation happened  
on April 15, 1918.

There were 65 members.  
Membership dues were  
\$5.

## Afternoons at Bennett



Bennett students learn engineering, as they build construction paper airplanes and then test their capabilities outside on a recent winter day.  
-- Connie Murray

Every two years, our club adopts an elementary school within the Jackson Public School district. This is our first year of partnership with Bennett Elementary (which is between West and Lansing Avenues). Kiwanians read to students, teach them math or how to crochet, keep track of how many laps they have achieved through the Mileage Club and so much more.

Jim Philo, Dick Erhardt, Mike Zuchowski and Connie Murray spend their Wednesday afternoons here, working with fourth and fifth graders who are a part of the Lego Club. Since they can only accommodate two or three students per adult, they divided the school year into sessions with each group building their own Lego City.

“It teaches teamwork and planning through building,” Mike says. “It also educates students in building and rewards students for good behavior by letting them participate in building the Lego City.”

“One of the girls had never worked with Legos and didn't even know what they were,” says Connie. “It's been great watching her learn how to put a building together. She was very shy... she's starting to open up and enjoy herself.”

At the end of each session, each student will receive a small Lego kit for their own and pictures of their achievements. Our club gave \$500 to the School for the project and they purchase or reimburse us for the Legos.

**Bennett can always use more Kiwanians. Contact Cal Schuch if you have an hour a week to give, to the Lego Club or any other important project with these students.**

## Travel, without Leaving Jackson

### ***Cruising France with Clint & Sue Denn on Thursday, March 5, 2015***

Join filmmakers Clint and Sue Denn for a captivating cruise through France's legendary wine growing regions, from Barcelona, Spain, on the Rhone River to Paris, "City of Light," and the Seine.

Sample French cooking and local wines. Visit olive farms, wander through forts and medieval villages and marvel at Roman ruins. Experience the magic of Paris with her diverse wonders. Stroll through charming towns and harbors such as Lyon, Arles, Honfleur, Giverny, and historic artists' retreats of Monet and Van Gogh. Discover Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy as we end our voyage with an unforgettable and emotional excursion to the famous Normandy beaches and Memorial Cemeteries.



### **March Sponsor: County National Bank & JTV**

**Where** - Jackson High School Auditorium, 544 Wildwood Ave.

**When** - 7 p.m.

**Where we are going...**

March 5: France on a River Cruise

April 9: Italy

Oct. 1: Natural Wonders of Southeast Coast U.S.

For ticket information, contact Kathie at: (517) 474-5227 or

[Kiwanis@gkveach.com](mailto:Kiwanis@gkveach.com)

--Kathie & George Veach



### **Happy Birthday, Harold!**

On Friday, January 30, Harold Miller turned 98. At that club meeting, we sang him Happy Birthday and had cake. He was gifted with a pair of "piano" socks since he often leads us in song. Now he can tinkle the ivories and twinkle the toes.

Harold is one of the lone remaining members of the original group of the Euphany Choir of Jackson High School. The choir will delight us during our March 29 club meeting and Harold will even direct a number! – Therese Hesslau

## Club News to Keep You in the Know

- Our club will sponsor the Kiwanis **Movies for Kids** at the Michigan Theatre during Spring Break (March 30-April 3). Let me know if you can volunteer to greet families and take tickets. The Northwest and Brooklyn clubs will help too. Doors open at 1 p.m., with the show starting at 2 p.m. The movie will be "Strange Magic," a Disney movie. If you don't volunteer, take your child or grandchild to see it! – Pat Kiessling
- Our club is accepting applications for **college scholarships**, now through March 20. Spread the word! The criteria and application is online at [www.jacksonkiwanis.com](http://www.jacksonkiwanis.com) -- Suzy Crittenden and Jessica Mitchell
- The **Aktion Club** is very busy. Thanks to those who joined us for our fund raiser at Denny's Restaurant last month. We have donated a coin sorter to Cascades Humane Society, so their staff can use it for their monthly Change Fund Raiser. We finished the cucumber seed project for the "We Can Make a Difference House." This month, we will wear green for our St. Patrick's Day party on March 10. We will host a bowl-a-thon on April 18 (more information soon). -- Cheri and Bob Johnson
- Support the **Aktion Club** and **Key Club**--drop off your pop tabs at Friday meetings.
- The **Builders Club**, at the Middle School at Parkside, has had minimal meetings in 2015 due to snow days and Monday holidays. Members met in mid-February to hold their charter meeting, receive member pins, hang their banner and have the Key Club members speak about Key Club and how the two groups can support each other. There are consistently 20-24 students at each meeting. – Beth Philo
- Our club will have a booth at the American 1 Credit Union **Women's Expo** on Saturday, March 14 at the Middle School of Parkside (2400 Fourth Street in Jackson). The expo lasts from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. I need Kiwanians to meet and greet attendees and simply promote our club. We always have attendees sign up and give away three flags, as long as they live within our flag routes. Kiwanians can work in one hour increments or as long as they can. – Therese Hesslau
- Thank you to the **Chili Golf Classic** committee for all your hard work before and during the event, to the members, Key Clubbers and Aktion Clubbers who volunteered that day and to those who played. You can see nearly 40 photos of the event, by visiting [www.jacksonkiwanis.com](http://www.jacksonkiwanis.com), clicking events on the left side of your screen, then photo gallery. – Bob Johnson
- We still have about **36 cans of nuts**. They are \$20 each and make great gifts. See me to purchase one. – Elinore Currier
- The Board made Bob Malott **an honorary member** of our club. He is a former club member and President, who moved out of state. – Beth Philo
- We will have a meeting dedicated to the **Flag Project** in late April or early May to clarify teams, how to manage a route and the importance of carrying out this community-wide project with pride and integrity.

## Club News (continued)

- Save the date: The next **Kids Against Hunger food packaging** is Friday, May 8, at Bennett Elementary School. Setup begins at 7 a.m. We will finish by 11:30 - in time for you to get to our Friday meeting! Let me know if you can help. – Eileen Lehnert
- Sign up for our next **Eliminate Project FUNdraiser**: we will host a trip to Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek on Saturday, June 13 (leaving 2:15 p.m., returning at 7:45 p.m.). Cost: \$40/person, which includes \$20 back on your player's card, \$5 in food, round trip transportation and four hours of gaming. Only 56 seats are available so contact me today to sign up. – Suzy Crittenden
- Another way to support the **Eliminate Project** is to donate funds from your personal bottle/can returns and loose change at Friday meetings. – Suzy Crittenden
- The next **evening meeting** is Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. at the Hunt Club.
- Thanks to all who let me know of any changes for the new **Kiwanis roster**. I should have them at club meetings, starting in mid-March. Please let me know if you would like to arrange another way for me to get you one. And remember, please shred your old roster. -- Joe Wolfe

## Welcome New Member

Our club has a new member. Catina Lowe joined Kiwanis on February 13. She is the Community Manager, for Relay For Life, which means she connects and is a resource to the communities of Jackson and Lenawee to the American Cancer Society. She joined our club to “learn, network and volunteer,” she writes.

She and her husband, Dirk, celebrate 21 years of marriage on February 26. They have three daughters: Kaylene, a junior at Western Michigan; Samantha, a high school junior; and Rachel, a fifth grader. They have lived on Devils Lake for 17 years. Catina says she enjoys “spending time with my family, as well as reading, boating, water skiing and fishing.”



Sponsor Ted Wilson introduces new member Catina Lowe, to the club as Dick Hitch looks on.

Catina graduated from Northwest High School, studied at Jackson College, transferred and received a degree from Spring Arbor University, then a Masters from Siena Heights University. She was also a contestant in the Jackson County Rose pageant in 1993. She grew up in Jackson. Her family owns a business, Jule Swartz and Sons Excavating. Please join us in welcoming Catina to the Kiwanis Club of Jackson!

## In Memory of Leo Harley and Gene Bills

We mourn two of our members. Leo Harley died on January 27, at the age of 89. Gene Bills died on February 11 at the age of 80.

For nearly sixty years, Leo Harley made a point to make Fridays about Kiwanis. He joined our club in 1958, and had received a perfect attendance award each year-for 57 years.

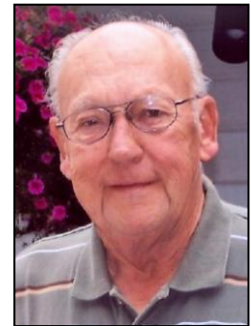


His obituary mentions his military service during WWII and that he graduated from Michigan State University. But it also mentions his life-long Kiwanis membership, his commitment to attending our weekly meetings and that he received the George F. Hixson award, which is given to those who support the Kiwanis spirit. He also served on our Board.

Leo was the top salesperson for the Newspaper Sale, “as long as I can remember,” says Secretary Joe Wolfe. “He always brought in more than \$500 including this past year. He twisted arms like no one I've ever known and his friends did not dare to leave to go South without first leaving a newspaper sale donation.”

Leo was also a big part of the Travel Adventure Film Series. George Veach says, “Leo was a ticket taker at virtually every performance, and knew most of the audience. In recent years we always had ‘his chair’ at the door on the left side of the auditorium so he could take tickets and greet our subscribers. For the last 15 years or more, Leo always volunteered his wife, Betty, to help us sell season tickets, and she did a great job. As far as I know, Leo worked on the committee as long as he was in the club. I know he was involved for all the years I have been in the club, since 1976.”

Gene Bills also loved Kiwanis. He enjoyed planting flags, worked on the Newspaper Sale every year since 1978 when he joined Kiwanis, served on the Board before he was President (in 1999) and then again twice after. Although not on the Board at present, he faithfully attended every Board meeting. He too received the Hixson award.



Gene created the “greeting committee” where a new member was assigned the duty of welcoming members at Friday meetings. He also chaired our sports committee, which meant he arranged for golfers for the Kiwanis State Golf Outing, the Max Drake Golf Outing and golfers for our Summer Picnic. He got the tables and chairs for the picnic too. “There are so many little things that he was there for, it is hard to remember,” says Joe. “But when the time comes we will be saying ‘sure wish Gene was here, he would know what to do.’”

“Gene was a very good friend, as well as a great Kiwanian,” says Dick Erhardt. “He loved planning golf outings. He was also very good at visiting a fellow member in the hospital.”

Gene served in the military during the Korean Conflict. He loved to golf and to follow his Lions, Tigers, and Michigan State Spartans.

Leo and Gene—we thank you for your service to Kiwanis. May you rest in peace.

# KIWANIS MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Builders Club Middle School at Parkside Happy Birthday Eileen Lehnert	3 Key Club Jackson H.S. 2:40 p.m. Happy Birthday Mike Zuchowski	4 <u>Board meeting</u> 12 noon Hunt Club	5 Travel Film: Cruising France 7 p.m. Jackson H.S.	6 <u>Program: Travel Film Makers</u>	7
8	9	10 Aktion Club 3 p.m. Jackson First Church of the Nazarene St. Patrick's Day Party	11 Evening Club Meeting 6 p.m. Hunt Club	12	13 <u>Program: Allegiance Hospice's Summer Camp for Grieving Children</u>	14 Women's Expo 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parkside Happy Birthday Cal Schuch
15	16 Builders Club Middle School at Parkside Newsletter Deadline Happy Birthday Chandra Howard	17 Key Club 2:40 p.m. Jackson H.S. Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 <u>Board meeting</u> 12 noon Hunt Club	19	20 <u>Program: President's Choice: Fun Tribute to a few past members College Scholarship Application Deadline</u>	21
22 Happy Birthday Priscilla Smith	23 Happy Birthday Kathie Veach	24 Aktion Club 3 p.m. Jackson First Church of the Nazarene	25 Happy Birthday Adam Howard	26 Happy Birthday Russ Youngdahl	27 <u>Program: Jackson High School Euphany Choir</u>	28
29 Happy Birthday Herb Elfring	30 Kiwans Movies for Kids 2 p.m. Michigan Theatre Happy Birthday Les Williams	31 Kiwans Movies for Kids 2 p.m. Michigan Theatre	1 Kiwans Movies for Kids 2 p.m. Michigan Theatre	2 Kiwans Movies for Kids 2 p.m. Michigan Theatre	3 <u>No club meeting Good Friday</u> Kiwans Movies for Kids 2 p.m. Michigan Theatre	4