



Kiwanis CLUB OF EASTON, PA

NEWSLETTER

November, 2023 Edition



President's Letter

Fellow Kiwanians,

As we close out the month of November, a month I often call Gratitude month, I am ever so thankful for your presence and engagement not only in Kiwanis but in the deep relationships, friendships and love we share with one another. November, especially with the Thanksgiving holiday, is a special time and an opportunity to reflect on how grateful we are to have each other and this wonderful Kiwanis organization in our lives. I am personally thankful for each and every one of you.

As we move into December and the various Holidays people celebrate during this special time of year, whether it be Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or another Holiday you celebrate, we have opportunities to gather together and serve the children in our community, especially those underserved. Make sure you join us for the December 5th (Tuesday) Colonial IU 20 Christmas Holiday party at the Chrin Center. This year will be better than ever thanks to the diligent work of our tireless organizers focused on this party. You'll not want to miss it. We also are supporting the Easton Police Department's Shop with a Cop, a wonderful program to bring a joyful Holiday celebration to children who would not otherwise be so fortunate.

I also want to draw your attention to our annual Holiday party on December 16th where we will meet to enjoy each other's company, some fine and interesting entertainment and wonderful food. Please make sure you join us all by contacting Janet (ladyjowen@outlook.com) and letting her know you will attend. It's an opportunity to come together and celebrate who we are, what we stand for and enjoy each other's fellowship.

We have many other opportunities for service and contributions of your time and energy to the children of our community and you don't want to miss out on the rewards of this time spent helping children.

I can't wait to see you all on December 5th. It will be truly wonderful.

In kindness, love and gratitude, Wishing you the Happiest of Holiday Seasons

James Owen

Monthly Wrap Up

November 1st Meeting

This week's meeting was presided over by our President-elect Scott Fisher. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of *God Bless America*. Barb provided a spiritual moment.

Our speaker for today....

One of our very own members, Dr. Thomas Lubben joined us today and shared with us his successes in his writer's experiences. Tom is admittedly a lifetime educator, learner, and dreamer. He resides in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania with his wife Carole. Tom has 26 extended family members scattered over six states. He has traveled extensively. Tom uses these experiences in the creation of his books. Tom actually published 4 new books in 2023 via two separate publishers. (Not bad for an 82-year-old!.these are his words)

Current Projects

Tom's debut novel, *Death Among the Pines*, was published in February of 2022 through Austin Macauley Publishers. He continues to actively market his works both in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. He has completed four additional novels expanding the career of his protagonist, BJ Gleeson. In the second novel, independently published April 2023, "*Death on the Bayou*" BJ visits New Orleans. The third adventure has the (now) private investigator in San Antonio, Texas at the site of the "*Death on the Day of the Dead*" along the famed River Walk. Tom has completed Book IV in the series: "*Death on the Grand Strand*" which has BJ traveling to Myrtle Beach to solve a series of murders on a famous golf course. His 5th book in the series is also ready for publication, "*Death Over the Cliffs*" is set in County Mayo, Ireland. His latest (6th book) is set in Cape May, New Jersey and is entitled "*Death on Diamond Beach*".

Tom has two spiritual non-fiction books due for publication. The first book is titled "*A Year's Journey*". It takes you on a spiritual journey for 365 days with a verse, comments on the verse, an image, and a question for the Reader on each page. Published May 2023 by Lighthouse Christian Publishing.

His second spiritual work, "*The Eye-Witnesses*" (Common People Who Observed Jesus' Miracles) focuses on ordinary people during the life of Jesus. It focuses on ten major events in the life of Jesus. Published by Lighthouse Christian release date by the end of 2023. You can buy Tom's books on Amazon and Barnes and Noble bookstores.



Thomas Lubben

Business Updates:

- Barb reported the amount for the rose sale....\$2899, with 250 dozen sold. This was a banner year for the rose sale....best year ever!
- Walt reminded us of the 11/17 K-Kids meeting a Shawnee; on 11/8 Walt, Sue, Neil and Rosemary are going to St. Jane's to finalize plans for a K-Kids Club.
- Janet...plans are coming along for the IU 20 Christmas Kids party. 12/16 Club Christmas party at Riverview Adult recreation club from 1-4 pm....more information to follow.
- Jump Start reading at the "Y" early learning center....readers attending Janet, Sue, James, and Judy Fisher....a big thanks to all. Great fun for all!
- Rosemary has announced that shirt sales will be ending on 11/3 get your orders to her real soon.
- Sue announced that we will be honoring Veteran's and their families next week at our meeting; Sue and Tanya announced that there will be a giving basket for 3rd Street Alliance starting next week and will be at every meeting through December. There is a list Tanya handed out listing the items that are most needed by the families.
- Neil is handing out and posting online a Club survey....don't forget to share your views and opinions.
- Scott reminded us that Shop With A Cop is coming up in December and that SURV is holding a fundraiser curbside dinner pickup for this event.
- Tanya said she can arrange for tour of the newly constructed/renovated classrooms at 3rd Street Alliance if we would like to come as a group to see the new additions to the learning environment.

November 8th Meeting

This week's meeting was presided over by our President-elect Scott Fisher. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of *God Bless America*. Barb provided a spiritual moment.

Special Veteran's Day Observation....

At our meeting today we observed Veteran's Day by introducing veterans and family members from our Club. Each person gave a little history of themselves and how they chose the branch of service where they served. This was a way for us to pay our respects to them for their service and sacrifices. Present for today's celebration were....

James Owen – Air Force

Roger Connors – Army

Gary Tempest – Army

Neil Gallagher – Air Force

Skip Fairchild – Marines

Tom Malerba - Army

Janet Owen – Navy

Terry Thomas – Army spouse

Vic Dennis – not present

We salute you all! And then we had cupcakes!!!! (brought to you by the Hospitality Committee....thanks Sue for pulling this together)



Tom Malerba, Neil Gallagher Terry Thomas
Skip Fairchild, Roger Connors, Janet Owen



James Owen, Gary Tempest

Today's speaker is Rebecca Escott....

Rebecca is returning today to bring us up to date on one of the newest courses offered by PennState Extension Better Kid Care online training platform. Rebecca came to us a while back to introduce this course and encourage our Club to donate funds to help support the development of the course. Here is what we learned today.

*Nature Sketching Builds Strong Observation Skills....*this is where Rebecca passed out some objects for observation and a tool for sketching. She explained the following information to us by creating an exercise to illustrate how to improve our powers of observation by honing our ability to focus, recall, reflect and refine. She continued by explaining how the goal is NOT to train an artist but to enhance an educator's ability to observe and document their world. Included tools and strategies support opportunities for adults and a parallel practice with toddlers through teens. Nature sketching meets a wide range of learning standards. As nature observation skills are refined, child observation skills are positively transformed. A keener, more specific way to observe the children to better meet their needs individually.

The following are the specific objectives of the course:

Objectives

- Practice deep noticing and eye-hand coordination skills using a natural item reference and several sketching exercises
- Make and use one or more sketching tools to support documentation and increased focus during observations
- Explore strategies for introducing and refining nature sketching experiences for the children in your care

We as a Club should be very gratified in helping to fund this project...along with some other donors...the chance to contribute to the ongoing education of folks who work with and teach children. They, too, are heroes!



Rebecca Escott

November 15th Meeting

President James Owen opened the meeting and members the *Pledge of Allegiance* and sang *God Bless America*. As a continuation of our recognition of our club Veterans, James Owen gave a brief look into his service in the Air Force.

Since this was a roundtable meeting several topics were discussed.

- Choosing a location for the Little Free Library (ongoing) Walt Howell added that Judie Dickerson from Cops 'n' Kids can donate books if needed
- Shop with a Cop – Walt Howell is chair. Funds were approved. No date yet.
- SURV Curbside Fundraiser
- Neil Gallagher, Membership Chair, encouraged more members to fill out the Membership Satisfaction Survey
- Janet Owen gave a report on the IU Christmas Party and the Member Holiday Party
- Since enough board members were present, three requests for funds were voted on
- Chris Paltz will again be heading the Salvation Army Bell Ringing volunteer opportunity. The first date is December 2nd from 10:00 to 4:00 at Boscov's
- Sue Gallagher thanked the club Veterans for their participation in the previous week's meeting
- Sue also said that the response to our Giving Basket Project has been great and it is still in effect until the end of December. She thanked members for the generosity.

November 22nd Meeting

At the invitation of Palmer Kiwanis, the Kiwanis Clubs of Easton and Phillipsburg, NJ were invited to their Breakfast Meeting at Williams Restaurant in Palmer Township. The meeting started with Palmer Club President Ron Roth welcoming everyone and we all said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. We sang *God Bless America* and a prayer was said.

Ron held a brief business meeting. He then asked the visitors to introduce themselves.

There were eight members from the Kiwanis Club of Easton – James Owen, Scott Fisher, Terry Thomas, Rosemary Kocher, Barb and Bill Walters and Neil and Sue Gallagher. Helene Meisner represented the Phillipsburg Kiwanis Club. Palmer members and visitors shared information about their clubs and projects. Everyone also participated in Palmer's Happy Dollars sharing what we were thankful for on this day before Thanksgiving. It was great to share camaraderie with our fellow Kiwanians at this interclub meeting. Thanks so much to the Palmer Kiwanis Club for inviting us.



Ron Roth



James Owen



Bill Walters



Helene Meisner
Kocher



Scott Fisher, Terry Thomas

Walt Howell



James Owen, Rosemary

Sue & Neil Gallagher, Terry Thomas

November 23, 2022



November 29th Meeting

Today's meeting was held at SURV Restaurant with Scott Fisher presiding. He opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. We said the *Pledge of Allegiance* and sang *God Bless America*. Barb Walters shared words of wisdom and Scott then introduced our speaker, Ann Flood, PA State Representative.

Representative Flood referring to Barb's words about kindness said that the State Legislature recently passed a resolution for Kindness Week, saying that since Covid there is a greater need for kindness. Brought to the PA House of Representatives by her desire to help others, Flood represents the 13th Legislative District in Northampton County.

Her topic for today was how to better serve the community of children by investing in their education, health and well being. She said children are our future, hope and our responsibility. They are the conduit of our heritage.

Ann built a foundation 2008, prior to the Legislature, to enhance the quality of life for brain injured children and to support their families. Lauren's Hope Foundation was started in memory

of her daughter, Lauen, who passed away at the age of 4 in 2007 as a result of a brain injury sustained at birth.

Topics discussed at this meeting were the challenges the legislature faces with regard to childcare; a resolution to declare May as Foster Care Month; recognizing students experiencing homelessness and the barriers it presents to education; plans to improve the WIC System and addressing mental health needs in rural communities.. Ann also hosted a workshop about providing financial aid to college bound students in the bottom 15% of performance.

Aside from the topics discussed Rep. Flood also serves on several committees including Labor and Industry and Aging and Older Adults. A question and answer session followed.

Thank you, Representative Flood for a most interesting meeting.



PA State Representative Ann Flood



Business

- Janet Owen gave a report on the **IU20 Christmas Party** (12/5/23) and the Holiday Party on Dec. 16th
- Neil Gallagher asked for final orders for lunches for IU20 Party and for completed Club Satisfaction Surveys
- Terry Thomas said that she and Scott will be meeting with Skye Blue today at 3:30
- Ken Wildrick reminded us to check his email about the Y offering free classes from 11/20 to 12/20 to focus on wellness
- Walt Howell reported the **Shop with a Cop** will be held on Dec. 12th at 6:00 PM at Walmart
- Walt said the SPL at Shawnee will be on Dec. 13th at 7:30 AM
- Walt received a Thank You note from the Ronald McDonald House for the can tabs
- Rosemary Kocher reminded us that the monthly hour reports are due and that our shirts will be done soon. She also reported that she received an Amazon wish list for foster children for gifts (see her for information)
- Scott went over upcoming events
- Sue Gallagher thanked club members for their support of the GIVING BASKET and asked for continued support throughout December

The Giving Basket Project



The **Giving Basket Project** continues through **December**. The Kiwanis Club of Easton will have a **Giving Basket** at each meeting. We will continue to collect items needed by **Third Street Alliance Early Learning Center**. We are working with Tanya Falero, Family Engagement Coordinator for Third Street Alliance and Kiwanis member.

The items needed are:

laundry soap body wash or bar soap shampoo conditioner
some cleaning supplies toilet paper toothpaste and toothbrushes (for adults and kids) dish detergent

We have had a very generous response from our members in November. The need still exists. During this season of thankfulness your generosity is very much appreciated.

[PennAEYC](#)

The Kiwanis Club of Easton supports [PennAEYC Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children](#) and CIT!



[PennAEYC Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children](#)
High school students enrolled in the early childhood education program at the [Career Institute of Technology](#) learned about how to advocate for the field they'll be entering. The students learned about the Early Learning PA campaigns and the importance of using their voices in helping to raise issues the child care sector is facing. [#StartStrongPA](#) [#childcare](#)

“Getting Ready for the IU20 Christmas Party”



Janet Owen

Thank you, Dean Young and PetSmart! The students at the IU20 are going to love the stuffed animals at our annual holiday party!

MEMBER NEWS

Can Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

On November 2, 2023 Scott Fisher and I ventured down to the Ronald McDonald House at 3925 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA to drop off the can tabs being collected on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Easton.

Walt Howell



SLPs

November 17, 2023

Shawnee K-Kids meeting 11-17-23

This morning Chris Paltz, Janet Owen and I assisted Mr. Ellison with the K-Kids meeting. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the K-Kids Pledge the activities for this meeting were announced by Mr. Ellison.

He hoped to complete the following activities: Salvation Army bell ringing; assign new members to the school entrances and bus duty for Safety Patrol; determine what needs there were for Safe Harbor; do the Word Search; give update on the Food Drive, and finally discuss plans for the Learning Garden.

Then he looked to do signups for the members to volunteer to ring the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign bells in front of Boscov's at the Palmer Park Mall on December 2nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mr. Ellison announced he was going to be there from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. A list was made of members who wished to volunteer and he would hand out permission forms for those members to bring to their parents.

He identified new Safety Patrol members for the next group of K-Kids duties. He was going to check with Safe Harbor to see what they might need that the members could help with. Next Mr. Ellison talked about a food drive and other activities the members could do in future meetings, such as items for the local SPCA and one member mentioned doing things for other animals. Finally, he talked about the Learning Garden and what progress was being made. Towards the end of the meeting Mr. Ellison and the three Easton Kiwanians handed out the members K-Kids pins and member booklets.

Their next meeting will be on Wednesday December 13th at 7:30 AM.

Respectfully,
Walter Howell





Region 6 Meeting
Kiwanis PA District
Nov. 18, 2023
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Region 6 Meeting of the Kiwanis Pennsylvania District was held on Nov. 18, 2023, at White Haven Community Library in White Haven, PA. The Meeting opened with welcome and introductions by Tiffany Callaio, Region 6 Trustee.

Governor Conrad Schlesinger gave district updates and discussed Governor's Goals.

The following topics were presented by speakers and discussed.

These included:

- Membership Spotlight – Let's Grow Members Together
- Young Child Priority One – Early Learning Efforts
- JEDI – Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Presented by Janet and James Owen)
- Key Leader
- Pennsylvania Foundation
- Technology
- Divisional Council Meeting

Many ideas were presented in each area. It was an interesting morning with a chance to hear from other Kiwanis Clubs. The Kiwanis Club of Easton was well represented with seven members attending – Scott Fisher, Neil and Sue Gallagher, Walter Howell, Rosemary Kocher and Janet and James Owen. Janet and James did a great presentation on JEDI. Scott Fisher, President Elect, presented the Governor's Check from our club to Conrad Schlesinger for the Governor's Projects. The meeting was well worth the time spent and it was beautiful for day for the one-hour trip there and back.

Upcoming Events

- Midyear Conference (zoom) – February 24
- Kiwanis International Convention (Denver, Colorado) – July 3-7
- District Convention (Reading, PA) – August 15-18



Conrad Schlesinger



James Owen



Conrad, Tiffany Callaio



Janet Owen



Scott Fisher, Conrad



Scott Fisher, Rosemay Kocher, Sue Gallagher Janet Owen, Walt Howell, Neil Gallagher

Birthdays

Bill Walters
Katherine Heller
Charles Adams

Dec. 12
Dec. 23
Dec. 27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Sarne Brewster Dec. 1
Daniel Mino Dec. 1
Thomas Malerba Dec 11



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- *The Easton Kiwanis IU20 Christmas Party – Tuesday, December 5....at the Chrin Center for more details contact Janet Owen*
- *Shop-with a -Cop – Please contact Walt Howell for more information on the date and time for this event.*
- *Salvation Bell Ringing for the holidays – Chris Paltz is the person to contact for more information on this. (484) 546-1193*
cpcpa7@gmail.com



In the Spotlight Skye Blue

Easton Area Middle School student, Skye Blue, realized that many girls at her school were using cotton, socks, toilet paper and even trash when they ran out of feminine hygiene products. She started by making a few hygiene kits on her own to hand out at school but discovered it wasn't enough to meet demand.

She decided to make a difference and came up with the idea of a hygiene cart for her school. With the help of her mother, her family, the Easton Area School District and various community partners she has been able to gather travel size hygiene items such as deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, pads, tampons, shampoo, lotion and socks to stock hygiene carts at both Easton

Area Middle School and Easton Area High School. Working in partnership with Family Connection of Easton, Skye reached out to the Kiwanis Club of Easton for support. The board was eager to assist and provided Skye with a \$1000 donation to help her purchase more supplies to continue her work.

Keela Vincent, Executive Director
Family Connection Easton



AROUND TOWN

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Easton, PA

Beginning Thanksgiving weekend, the city of Easton, PA becomes a Winter Wonderland.

The Easton Winter Village is open. Enjoy vendor huts, ice skating and holiday spirit in Downtown Easton Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays November 18 to December 17. It is a wonderful place to everyone to visit and enjoy the holiday spirit. Please check the website below for more information.

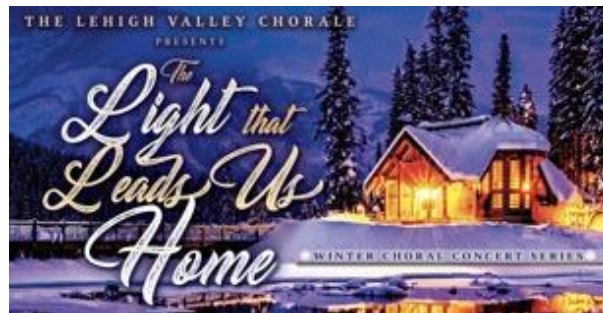
Happy Holidays!



eastontowncenter.com › holiday-happenings

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming **Lehigh Valley Chorale** Winter Concert **THE LIGHT THAT LEADS US HOME** December 1 @ 7:30PM & December 2nd @ 2:00PM First Presbyterian Church, Tilghman & Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown Check their **Facebook page** about pre-ordering tickets.



Dec 5, Tuesday – IU 20 Kids Christmas Party at Chrin Center (note day change) **If you are coming to the IU20 Kids Party on Tues 5th at the Chrin Center, bring \$10 cash for your lunch. And we are paying for the lunch of the Nazareth Key Club students helping us**

Dec 13 – Discussion on Policy + Procedures and Bylaws

Dec 15 Friday Nite — **Palmer Kiwanis Christmas Party @ Green Pond County Club, 5-6 cocktails, dinner @ 6PM/ \$55/person, reservations to Ronald.Roth@temple.edu**

****IF YOU FIND A HIDDEN THANKSGIVING SYMBOL HIDDEN IN THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL TERRY THOMAS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN AUTUMS PRIZE!!**

Dec 16, Saturday -- **Club Christmas Party 1-4PM** @ Riverview Estates Active Adult Community Clubhouse, 2450 Hollow View Drive, Easton, Pa.

Dec 20 – Strategic Plan Wrap-up and Board Meeting



Dec 27 – No Meeting



Our new 2024 Year Begins.....

Jan 3—T.B.A.

Jan 10-- General Discussion

Jan 17—Bill and Barb Walters will present a 30-minute video of their 3 Hummer H1 Tennessee Rally Adventures from back in the 1990's

Jan 24--Board Meeting

Jan 31-- Chrysostom Academy, new private school in Bethlehem. Headmaster John Heitzenrater's topic "*Slaying Dragons: Why Fantasy is Fantastic and Necessary in Classical Education*"

Shawnee K-Kids Schedule

Shawnee K-Kids Meetings are at 7:30 AM at Shawnee Elementary School.

Dates: 12/13/23; 1/19/24; 2/9/24; 3/15/24; 4/12/24; 5/10/24

Note: All members who have **current PA clearances** are welcome. Please submit your clearances to Walt if you would like to attend any of the meetings.

