

# Kiwanis Communicator

April 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Tiffin, Ohio

## FROM THE *President*

Dear Kiwanians,



Dear Kiwanians,

So much is made about the dwindling numbers of members in service organizations. When talking about this problem, the focus tends to be about recruiting new members. But what about YOU, as an engaged Kiwanian currently reading this article?

Why doesn't anyone ever ask your opinion? Only focusing on why we aren't bringing in new members is ignoring the other half of the equation – why are current members choosing not to renew their membership? Members WANT to love their club. You give a lot of time, talent, and money to this organization, and you want to get a good value from it. Kiwanis International has a number of great suggestions to try and reengage club members and get them excited about Kiwanis again! Those suggestions include celebrating members success, evaluating our community visibility, and assessing our service impact.

We are a club full of community leaders and involved and informed citizens. Just this Kiwanis year, we had Judge Rhonda Best not only winning her election as Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Judge, but also becoming the first elected female judge in Tiffin, and the first countywide, elected female judge in Seneca County. Julie Adkins was awarded the Richard J. Makowski award from the County Auditor's Association of Ohio. Shirley Smith's retirement was celebrated on the front page of The Advertiser-Tribune. Mikki King was awarded Ambassador of the Year from the Seneca Regional Chamber of Commerce. Celebrating those

successes as they happen can be huge for making people feel valued by their Kiwanis family.

Gauging community visibility isn't just for recruiting new members – a strong impression on the public provides members a sense of pride and belonging to an organization that is thought so highly of in the community. One way we can get our name out there even more than we already do (thank you Bernie and Gene!) is with new branded apparel. Next month, I will have order forms and catalogs available for you to purchase clothing items that have our logo on them. These can be worn anytime you are representing Kiwanis at an event, or just anytime in general to show pride in our organization.

Lastly, evaluating our service impact will engage members. Kiwanis International has a great tool that will help us evaluate each service project and place it in categories of high or low impact vs. high or low cost. We can also talk to community leaders to get a better understanding of the unique needs of our community and how they think Kiwanis can help. Again, we are lucky enough to have a lot of community leaders in our club – let's use their expertise and passion for their craft to find ways to be more involved and develop key partnerships! So, if you made it this far, just know that you are a valued and respected member of our club, and we don't take for granted the time and money you dedicate to this organization.

*Kayleigh Feasel*  
President



## PASS THE PIG



The HUB provides a safe environment for Tiffin's youth. It provides local youth with games, time with friends, homework, and any other necessary help! The Tiffin Seneca Teen Center, more recently referred to as "The HUB" has been in existence for the past 26 years. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1991 by a group of adults in response to a school-wide survey that found junior high and high school students wanted a safe, friendly, comfortable drop-in location to gather after school. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Kiwanis Club didn't meet in person, therefore, we weren't able to Pass the Pig to collect donations for The HUB. Now that we are again meeting in person, we will again begin to Pass the Pig the first week of each month to collect funds to show our ongoing support for The Tiffin Teen Center (The HUB). Donations are used these to purchase food supplies for the snack area.

In addition, we will pass the pig the second Tuesday of each month to support Cindy Schultz. As you recall from when she spoke at one of our club meetings, Cindy donates cakes that she bakes – from one to three on average per month – to those for whom she has the chance to "make their day". Information can be found on her Facebook page – Cindy Lou.



# CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are always looking for members willing to be our "Club Member Spotlight" person for the month. Even if you've done it before, you can submit a new, updated one. Those interested should contact Bernie Steinmetz.

## April Dates

### APRIL PRAYER PROVIDERS

- April 4 Bernie Steinmetz
- April 11 John Millar
- April 18 Eric Willman
- April 25 Pat DeMonte

### APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- April 22 Julie & Rusty Adkins

### MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

- April 7 Kristi Krintzline
- April 10 Rick Dorsch
- April 14 Melissa Mullins
- April 20 Gene Chintala
- April 25 Steve Schreiner

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 7 Steve Schreiner
- April 23 Sharon Rigby
- April 25 Shirley Smith

### APRIL SPEAKERS

- April 4 Claudia Steinmetz,  
Tiffin City Schools  
elementary art  
teacher, dance instructor,  
choreographer, artist
- April 11 Ben Bodart,  
Owner, Bodart  
Productions
- April 18 Andrew Morgan,  
President, Mercy  
Health Tiffin &  
Mercy Health  
Willard Hospitals
- April 25 Donald "Shorty" Fitch,  
Shorty's Auction  
& Liquidation

## Inspiration

Provided by the Human & Spiritual Values Committee

### A LITTLE PRAYER

Let us be thankful, Lord, for little things -  
The song of birds, the rapture of the rose;  
Cloud-dappled skies, the laugh of limpid springs,  
Drowned sunbeams and the perfume April blows;  
Bronze wheat a-shimmer, purple shade of trees -  
Let us be thankful, Lord of Life, for these!

Let us be praiseful, Sire, for simple sights; -  
The blue smoke curling from a fire of peat;  
Keen stars a-frolicking on frosty nights,  
Prismatic pigeons strutting in a street;  
Daisies dew-diamonded in smiling sward -  
For simple sights let us be praiseful, Lord!

Let us be grateful, God, for health serene,  
The hope to do a kindly deed each day;  
The faith of fellowship, a conscience clean,  
The will to worship and the gift to pray;  
For all of worth in us, of You a part,  
Let us be grateful, God, with humble heart.

*Robert William Service*

Robert William Service  
(16 January 1874 – 11 September 1958)  
was a British-Canadian poet and writer, often called  
"the Bard of the Yukon".



## Joyfulness

*"Do not neglect the sounds of joyfulness in my life  
and work today. Remember that laughter and joy are  
pretty good signs of a good grasp on life."*

*- Hugh Sidey*

# March Programs

## March 7



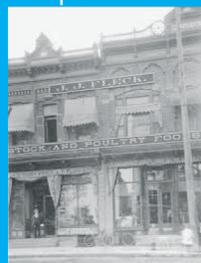
**Sister Jane Frances Omlor** is a native of Tiffin, who lived in West Virginia for 26 years, before returning to Tiffin in 2006. Sister Jane, who graduated from Calvert High School, took her vows in 1962. She said that St. Francis was founded in 1869 by Fr. Joseph Bihn and Elizabeth Schaefer. It was originally built as a home for orphans. The Spirituality Center

serves many purposes but it was built to take care of aged men (aged women stayed at the convent) and was previously called the St. Joseph Renewal Center. When she returned to Tiffin in 2006, she brought her pottery experience of 45 years with her. She first began in the pottery business when she was in Spencer, West Virginia in 1981. She started Earth'n Sisters Pottery, which uses a space which used to serve as a laundry. The pottery area is open 24/7. She also started a gift shop called SpiritSpace Gallery & Gifts. It is run by volunteers. She brought some of the items from SpiritSpace to the meeting. The SpiritSpace is currently open by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Sister Jane. One of the programs coming is "Remembering Your Story – Writing your spiritual autobiography in your wisdom years", a four-part series that will take place in person or via Zoom on April 15, May 6, May 20, and June 10 for a cost of \$45.00. The program leader will be Kathy Berken who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Kathy has a master's degree in theology and a graduate certificate in spiritual direction. She is a member of the ministerial preaching team at the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Another upcoming event is "Landato Si & Integral Ecology as a Way of Seeing". This will be presented by Vincent Miller, the Gudorf Chair in Catholic Theology and Culture at the University of Dayton. The presentation will take place on Thursday, May 9 from 7:00 – 8:15pm at the Holy Family Chapel at St. Francis Convent. There is no fee to attend but donations are welcome. An Oasis Day Mini-Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 from 9:00am – 12 noon. It will be led by Sister Jane. She will use teachings from the late Irish poet, author, priest and philosopher, John O'Donohue. She will delve into the Celtic wisdom of love, spirit and the body while exploring the concept of Anam Cara (the Gaelic word for "soul friend"). Sister Jane has also written two books, "When God Butts In" and "Clear Night, Bright Star." She said that, in her retirement, she is also a "critter sitter", but only takes on small dogs these days.

## March 14



Local historian **Mark Steinmetz** shared his research on the colorful history of J.J. Fleck with a power point presentation. Jacob Fleck was born in Findlay in 1853 and later moved to Tiffin. Mark described the move as Findlay's loss and Tiffin's gain. Jacob added the J and went by J.J. because he thought it sounded more business-like. His first store in Tiffin was located on Washington Street. At the time, he lived in the Shawhan House, which is now the senior living facility Elmwood at The Shawhan. One of his accomplishments in 1885 came as a member of a five-person board that brought natural gas to Tiffin.



This enticed a number of factories such as Sterling Abrasives to come to Tiffin. In 1888, he married Clara Hauck and they lived at a home on Ohio Avenue. The Flecks around 1900 moved to a home on Sycamore Street. The couple had 10 children. J.J.'s first business was located at 3 – 5 South Washington St and the store advertised a druggist and groceries. Fortunately, J.J. moved the business to 187-189 South Washington Street prior to the flood of 1913. He advertised many items including corn salve, cough drops, toothache gum, chewing gum and more. He was a true druggist. J.J. patented an anti-tobacco chewing gum. Among his many endeavors he raised poultry and was involved in making a number of products for local farmers including fly chaser and poultry powder. He also opened a print shop and a knife sharpening business. In 1889, J.J. started his egg dye business. He passed away on April 13, 1942 and Walter and Genevieve Fleck took over the business. The company also made saccharine tablets, food coloring and disinfectant. In 1971, the Flecks bought Click-Chick, another dye company to become the second largest of its kind in the country. In 1989 they celebrated 100 years of Easter egg dye making. Production was stopped in 1997. The company closed and sold its equipment and the remaining stock as it could no longer compete with large companies.

## March 21



### Amy Miller, Brian Hess, & Lew Hurst

**Lew Hurst**, Superintendent of the Seneca County Opportunity Center, was joined by **Amy Miller**, Community Advocacy & Support, and **Brian Hess**, Aktion Club member as speakers. Lew and Amy are both members of the Kiwanis Club of Tiffin. The trio spoke about Early Intervention Services, current projects, school age programs, SSA (Service and Support Administration), adult services, residential supports, CAS (Community Support Services), and upcoming events. Early intervention begins at birth and goes through age three. Lew said that the program has seen an increase in the number of children with developmental disabilities. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that one in seven children are born with autism, ADHD or developmental disabilities. According to Mercy Health – Tiffin Hospital, one in seven pregnancy screenings finds some type of drug in the mother's blood tests. This often results in chemical dependency in the child. The Early Intervention Services program is averaging one to 20 new enrollments each month. The school age program is for those between the ages of five and 22. Currently 53 students are enrolled in the program and the SCOC is looking to expand because of increased need throughout our county. In addition, the program is seeing an increase in behaviors in children. Lew said that one of the big struggles is finding teachers. Those enrolled in adult services are currently ages 20 to 87. He said the SCOC is in the process of privatizing the adult program as federal regulations no longer allow them to provide adult services. As a result, a number of private providers are being contracted to do so. Individuals are offered the choice of which provider they would like to use. The SCOC is required to fund the services. The SSA provides service coordination for children and adults and develops plans for the services. The purpose is to connect families and individuals to available resources. Lew said he has seen nearly a 100 percent increase over the last five years due to the increase in children served. The SCOC purchased the former cancer center on Fair Lane from Mercy Health – Tiffin Hospital and these services will be moved there when renovations are completed. Amy Miller leads the SSA. Residential supports serves approximately 70 adults

with developmental disabilities living in the community with roommates. A variety of providers are contracted to provide these services. The SCOC works with Northland Home to manage 10 homes. In order to support individuals, the program supports families in their home. CAS provides support to connect individuals to the community. It also supports the Aktion Club, Project Stir (Step Toward Independence & Responsibility). Brian Hess has greatly benefitted from Project Stir and is a good life facilitator. Project Stir teaches how to speak up, use your voice, and become more independent. In addition, CAS provides community connections and is involved in Special Olympics and advocacy training. The program provides behavioral support, public relations, MUI/UI investigations, good life training, and intake and eligibility. Current projects include the renovation of the former Optima Building along with the former Mercy Cancer Center on Fair Lane, working within an existing budget, training and educating staff members and the community on greater awareness, continuation of privatization of transportation, and expanding the park with storybook trails. The playground is open to the public. Upcoming events include the Palm Sunday Dinner on March 24, Bakery Bingo on March 26 (5:30 – 7:30pm in the gym), the Barnyard Moosical on April 27 at Heidelberg University, and a provider dinner to recognize direct support professionals.

## March 28



### Sara Wax and Nicole Sanchez

represented the Allen Eiry Center this day. Sara is the travel coordinator and Nicole is the administrative assistant for Allen Eiry.



### Nicole Sanchez

### Sara Wax

The mission of the Allen Eiry Center is to enhance the quality of life for Seneca County's 50+ community. Allen Eiry offers trips with pricing starting at \$9.00 and ranges up to thousands of dollars. Sara said the goal is for seniors to get the same experiences no matter how much they spend. Thirty-six regular weekly activities are offered including chair volleyball, cardio drumming, dominos, pool, basic balance, and more. Fifteen special monthly programs are offered such as day trips. A dementia support group called S.O.L.O., which means "Supporting Our Loved One."

is also available. The Allen Eiry Center has 1,350 monthly visitors. It started out on Market Street as Senior Community Services. Our own Mary Lewis was the director for a time in the mid-70s. The Center next moved to Orchard Park and when that location was no longer large enough, the current location at 28 Hopewell Avenue was purchased. The Allen Eiry Center continues to grow due to retirement and multi-generations living together. Services help people stay independent and members are made sure to feel welcome every time they walk through the door. Allen Eiry is a United Way agency and holds several fundraisers throughout the year. The Center relies on grants and support from the community. The agency and its members also love to give back. Support is provided to the Salvation Army, F.I.S.H. Food Pantry, and the Transformation Life Center. The Center provides blankets for seniors and youth and

works with the Seneca County Commission on Aging. Before COVID, 55 trips were provided per year. The numbers are not back to that level. Single day trips are offered in which two busses are used. Community tours, lunch, sporting events, theater, educational events are examples of activities that are offered. The Center also offers multi-day trips where commercial transportation is relied upon. Allen Eiry died in 1974 at the age of 80 and left his estate to "old folks' homes" in the area. He was known as an excellent investor. The Allen Eiry Center is one of many organizations that receive funding from his now \$2 million estate. When the Allen Eiry Center was located on Market Street, its bus picked people up at their homes. That service is no longer provided due to insurance and a lack of volunteers however members can arrive via North Central Area Transportation (formerly SCAT). The Allen Eiry Center is a stop for the Shelton Shuttle.

## Origins of April Fools' Day



Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1. People who were slow to get the news or

failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

## Did you know that spaghetti grows on trees?

The Brits concocted one of history's most memorable April Fools' Day pranks. On April 1, 1957, the BBC aired a segment in which a Swiss farming family harvested long strands of pasta from their spaghetti trees. In England at that time, Spaghetti was still an exotic delicacy with mysterious origins, so many viewers bought the report hook, line and sinker. Some even called in to ask how to grow spaghetti trees of their own. The BBC reportedly suggested, "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

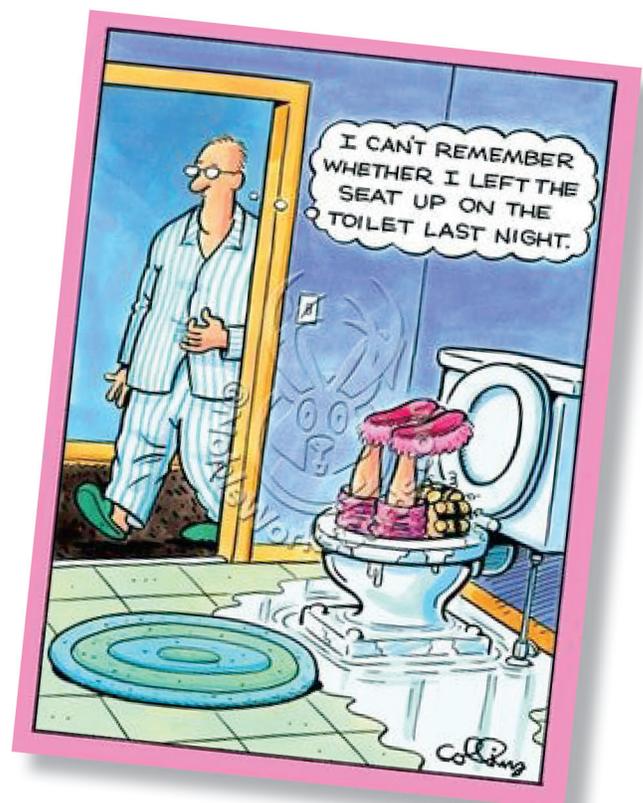
## President Nixon – The Return

Richard Nixon running for president—again? That's what National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" program revealed on April 1, 1992. The segment even included a clip in which the disgraced politician intoned,

"I never did anything wrong, and I won't do it again." As outraged listeners called in to express their dismay, the station admitted the announcement was a hoax. Comedian Rich Little, known for his spot-on impression of the 37th president, had played the role of Nixon.

## Here's a Whopper!

In 1998, in a full-page advertisement in USA Today, Burger King unveiled a new menu item specifically engineered for southpaws: the Left-Handed Whopper. According to the fast-food chain, the burger's condiments were rotated 180 degrees to better suit the 1.4 million lefties who patronized its restaurants. Thousands of customers requested the new burger, swallowing an April Fools' Day whopper as they ordered their Whopper.





7 W. Market St.  
Tiffin, OH 44883  
419-448-4541

## 2023-2024 OFFICERS

President	Kayleigh Feasel
President Elect	Melissa Mullins
Co-Secretaries	Beth McFarlan-Hutson/Melissa Mullins
Treasurer	Leslie Reinhart
Immediate Past President	Tom Schweitzer

## KIWANIS FOUNDATION MEMBERS

President	Julie Adkins
Vice President	John Millar
Secretary	Mikki King
Treasurer	Clark Hutson
Members:	Richard Ellinger Bernie Steinmetz Ex-officio: Kayleigh Feasel

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

Bernie Steinmetz  
Mary Traxler

**2025**  
Becky Bohn  
Patrick McLeod

**2026**  
Gene Chintala  
Mark Zeno

## KIWANIS MANOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Shirley Smith
Vice President	Rich Traunero
Secretary/Treasurer	Sr. Rita Mae Johns

Members: Becky Bohn, Gene Chintala, Richard Ellinger, Nancy Miller, Bernie Steinmetz, Mark Zeno

## SERVICE COMMITTEES

Community Services	Melissa Mullins/Beth McFarlan-Hutson
Youth Services	
Human & Spiritual Values	Bernie Steinmetz
Young Children Priority One	Pam Greene
Sponsored Youth	Circle K – Chelsea Bass & Mikki King
	Key Club (Tiffin Columbian) – Michelle Tuite/ Molly Armstrong
	Builder's Club (Tiffin Middle School) – John Millar/Melissa Mellott
	K-Kids (Noble School) – Melissa Mullins/Trisha Flint
	Aktion Club (Opportunity Center) – Beth McFarlan - Hutson & Amy Miller

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership & Retention	Gene Chintala/Kayleigh Feasel
Interclub Meetings	Tom Schweitzer
Public Relations	Bernie Steinmetz/Bonnie Boroff
Race Program	Mary Traxler, Eric Willman
Website	Mark Levans/Gene Chintala
Social Media	Gene Chintala/Beth McFarlan-Hutson
Newsletter	B ernie Steinmetz/Mark Levans
Grade A Celebration	Nancy Miller
Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship	John Millar
Family Fest	Pam Greene
Christmas Parade	Kristi Krintzline
Garage Sale	Gene Chintala/Pat DeMonte
Cooking Show	Melissa Mullins