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At Israel Putnam Roger Sherman John Barry & Ben Franklin Elementary Schools



At ARC of Meriden and Wallingford The 1st Aktion Club in Connecticut



At Lincoln Middle School Washington Middle School St. Joseph's School Edison Middle School

The Kiwanis Club of Meriden meets: Thursdays at 12:15 PM at Il Monticello 577 South Broad Street Meriden, CT

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NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY MEETING HELD MAY 14, 2015 EDUCATION AWARDS NIGHT

At 6:40 PM, Brian Cofrancesco opened the program with the ringing of the bell and then the recitation of our Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the signing of "My Country Tis of Thee". Doreen Roddy gave a beautiful prayer in honor of our Education Awards recipients.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brian reminded the Kiwanis members of the 1-day service project at Casa Boricua on May 16th; the Thursday luncheon at Wilcox on May 21st; and E. Jack Shorr reminded members to attend the Deptula Essay Awards evening. The program is at 6:30 PM on May 27th, at Lincoln Middle School. Brian also informed the members that Bob MacDuff is again in the hospital. His condition is unknown, but will update the club as soon as he hears anything.

Brian then introduced Past President Ann Giannetti, the chair of the Kiwanis Club of Meriden's Education Awards Committee.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM: Ann Giannetti gave a beautiful and informative introduction to the keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Benigni, Superintendent of Schools, who gave an inspiring speech for recipients, telling them to be great at whatever you do and success will follow. Find a career that is your passion and challenge yourself to be a leader.

Dr. Benigni congratulated the scholarship recipients and thanked the Kiwanis Club of Meriden for all they do for the city and the children in our schools.

After dinner, Ann Giannetti greeted the students and then gave special thanks to David Wyskiel for the design and production of the certificates, and recognized Elaine Murphy for the many years of doing the program. She also thanked the schools and their guidance offices, as well as the Education Awards Committee, for the long hours they put in to choosing the right recipients for these scholarships.

Brian Cofrancesco presented the first recipient from Maloney High School, Brendan T. Formanski. Brendan has a 4.41 GPA, takes many AP (Advanced Placement) and college prep classes. He is a well-respected music percussionist and section leader in the Maloney Band. He has completed numerous community service hours and will be attending UCONN in the fall.



Kiwanis Club of Meriden Education Award recipients: Brendan T. Formanski, Joseph K. Ludemann, Ashley L. Greenier, and Sophia C. Corey, the Ellen Mazza Award winner.

Elaine Murphy introduced the second recipient, Joseph K. Ludemann from Platt High School. Joseph ranks 4th out of a class of 240. He is the captain of the swim team and is also on the tennis team. He is involved with Literacy Volunteers and also participates in many other community service projects, one of which is with Bradley Home. Joseph will also be attending UCONN in the fall.

David Wyskiel presented the third recipient, Ashley L. Greenier from Wilcox High School, who is graduating 5th of 180 students. She is very involved with Girls Inc., including being a Junior Leader and a member of the ABC (Anti-Bullying Coalition) program. Ashley will be pursuing a nursing degree from Quinnipiac University. She has already earned a CNA certification and received numerous awards in this field.

The final presenter was Eileen Bongiovanni who gave the Ellen Mazza Education Award. Ellen was a Kiwanian and member of the Board of Education who was truly dedicated to the betterment of children. She was a dear friend to many members of the club. Sadly, Ellen passed away 10 years ago.

This award is bestowed to a graduating senior who will be pursuing a degree in education. Eileen presented the award to Platt High School senior, Sophia C. Corey. Sophia has a 4.0 GPA and is pursuing a career in early childhood and special education and will be attending Central Connecticut State University in the fall. She has enjoyed working with mentally and physically impaired individuals, including volunteering at Camp Nerden which helped her determine the career she wished to pursue. Sophia is very passionate about touching the lives of these individuals.

Ann Giannetti then honored the parents of all recipients, closing the program at 7:55 PM.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Proposed amendments to the Kiwanis International Bylaws will be presented for action at the 100th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Several important issues will be considered and voted on at the House of Delegates on Friday, June 26, 2015. Below is a link that will take you to the KI website detailing these proposed amendments:

<http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis100/centennial-events/2015-convention/amendments-and-resolutions-proposals>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 21st: Please let Brian Cofrancesco (203-641-8147 or bcofran@gmail.com) know if you will be attending. Wilcox will need a head-count.
- May 23rd: Tentative date for New Member Orientation (details forthcoming). Contact: Bill Passarelli (203-631-1196 or wjpassarelli@gmail.com)
- May 26th: Membership meeting, 6:00 PM Bongiovanni Insurance offices at 107 E. Main Street in Meriden. Please consider attending.
- May 28th: Kiwanis Family Night at Israel Putnam (133 Parker Avenue), 6:00 PM – An evening celebrating all of our Kiwanis SLP clubs. Contact Corinne Balcher to sign up to attend.
- May 29th-30th: Relay For Life Mark T. Sheehan High School, 142 Hope Hill Road in Wallingford. Please contact Doreen Roddy (203-237-1257) or Cindy D'Agostino (203-235-0549) to schedule your volunteer hours walking in the relay.
- June 1st: Walter Deptula Essay Contest, 6:30 PM, Lincoln Middle School, 164 Centennial Avenue in Meriden. Come out and enjoy this wonderful annual event.
- June 3rd: Board Meeting, Hunter's Training Center, 474 W. Main Street in Meriden. 6:30 PM light fare, 7:00 PM meeting.
- June 4th: Luncheon Meeting, 12:15 PM at Il Monticello. Speaker will be: Hilda Nieves - CASA/GAL Volunteer Coordinator, Children in Placement, Superior Court Juvenile Matters.
- June 6th: **85TH ANNIVERSARY GALA, Villa Capri, 6:30 PM, 906 North Colony Rd, Wallingford. Please contact Lauren Rizzuto (203-530-2095) or Eileen Bongiovanni (203-464-8686) for tickets. \$55 per person / \$400 for a table of 8.**
- June 11th: Peanut Day - Breakfast at Il Monticello, 7:30 AM. THEN, *ALL HANDS ON DECK*. Please contact Julianna Rathonyi (203-426-4930 or jr06424@gmail.com) for your assignments!

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- Corinne Balcher, *President-Elect*
- Julianna Rathonyi, *Vice President*
- Melissa Neville, *Secretary*
- Doreen Roddy, *Recording Secretary*
- Julia Kane, *Treasurer*
- Lauren Rizzuto, *Immediate Past President*

Kiwanis Club of Meriden Bulletin:

- Corinne Balcher, *Editor*
- Florence Thibodeau, *Reporter*
- David Wyskiel, *Photographer*