

Happy 90th Anniversary, Kiwanis!

January 21st, 2005 is Kiwanis International's 90th birthday! Our New York District is celebrating this very special event with a year-long observance including a special focus by all Kiwanis levels on improving our club's image in the community through better projects well publicized, and better club meetings with good programs and good fellowship. Hopefully your club has also planned a special birthday party meeting on or close to that date.



George F. Hixson

Rochester Club

First International President • 1916-1918

Another major part of our celebration will be the May 6, 2005 concert to be held at the Tilles Center for the performing arts on the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University in Brookville, L.I. It promises to be a gala event and your presence and support will guarantee its success. All net proceeds of the evening will benefit the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at Schneider Children's Hospital at North Shore. (see Page 9)

To celebrate this milestone anniversary here in the pages of our award-winning Empire State Kiwanian, from among the several perspectives from which our organization's history could be viewed, let's trace its evolution into the Kiwanis we now know. Perhaps nowhere is there more evidence of changing times and changing attitudes than in what has occurred at and as a result of our International Conventions.

90 Years of Selected Historic Highlights

- 1916 – Our first convention, May 18-19 in Cleveland, Ohio (only 16 months after our "birth" in Detroit and after the fledgling organization had already changed its "We Trade" business-oriented purpose into a community service – philanthropic one) unified the existing 24 clubs into "The National Kiwanis Club", adopted a constitution, and elected George F. Hixson, a Rochester, N.Y. attorney to the first of his two terms as the president of the National Kiwanis Club. On the following November 1st, Kiwanis became International with the organization of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, with our Buffalo club as sponsor.
- 1917 – In February, the first International magazine was published, edited in Buffalo and printed in Rochester.
- 1918 – Delegates to the Providence, R.I. convention authorized the formation of districts. On September 27th at a meeting in Syracuse (our first New York District "convention") representatives of the nine existing New York clubs elected Clarence A. Nelson of Utica our first District Governor.
- 1919 – Kiwanis declared its independence at the Birmingham, Alabama convention. In a flurry of check wring, attendees raised

\$17,500 in one-half hour to buy Kiwanis from founder/organizer Allen Simpson Browne.

- 1922 – The first convention held outside the United States was in Toronto, Canada, with over 4,000 people attending.
- 1924 – Kiwanis' six permanent objects, unchanged to this day, were adopted at the Denver, Colorado convention.
- 1925 – The first Key Club was instituted by the Sacramento, California Kiwanis Club. Originally for boys only, Key Club officially went coed in 1977.
- 1936 – Our first Washington D.C. convention was attended by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1940 – The Kiwanis International Foundation was created.
- 1943-45 – Due to World War II, these three years were the only ones in our 90-year history in which no real International Conventions were held. Necessary business was conducted at an International Council meeting or a small administrative convention with very limited attendance.
- 1946 – The Atlantic City, N.J. convention



Mim and Anton J. "Tony" Kaiser

with nearly 10,000 people present broke all previous attendance records.

- 1953 – The convention in New York City, held 37 years after the first International Convention, in Cleveland, was the first (of only two) held in our New York District.
- 1955 – After an incredibly long and complex development period (33 years), the Kiwanis International Board unanimously voted to officially recognize Circle K clubs. The Pullman, Washington Kiwanis Club is credited with sponsoring the first Circle K Club.
- 1961 – After some 40 years of debate, delegates to the Toronto, Canada convention voted to expand Kiwanis beyond the U.S. and Canada. The following year clubs were organized in the Bahamas and Mexico.
- 1963 – In February, the first European Kiwanis Club was formed in Vienna, Austria.
- 1964 – Kiwanis expands to Asia (Tokyo, Japan, Manila, and the Philippines).
- 1965 – Celebrating Kiwanis' Golden Anniversary, for only the second time the convention was held in New York City setting a new high with more than 18,000 people attending.
- 1967 – Kiwanis expands to New Zealand, Australia, South America, and Central America.
- 1975 – Breaking all attendance records, nearly 20,000 people attended the convention in Atlanta, Georgia, still an all-time high. Also, the first Builders Club was chartered.
- 1976 – Kiwanis expand into Africa (Nigeria).
- 1982 – Kiwanis International moved its

administrative offices from Chicago where they had been since 1959 to a new 60,000 square foot building in Indianapolis, Indiana.

- 1983 – Delegates to the Houston, Texas convention elected Frank J. DiNoto of Newport Beach, California the 72nd President of Kiwanis International, a Roman Catholic, following 71 WASPs.



Trish and Ian Perdriau

- 1987 – At our second convention in Washington D.C., U. S. President Ronald Reagan attended and addressed over 12,000 delegates and guests. After numerous unsuccessful attempts over many years, delegates voted to permit Kiwanis clubs worldwide to welcome women as members. Also adopted was a worldwide plan for regional representation on the International Board of Trustees. Tony Kaiser was elected the 73rd International President, the first New Yorker since our district was formed in 1918. The traditional photo of the International President on the cover of the October issue of the Kiwanis magazine for the first time included the First Lady, Mim. On all subsequent October issue covers except one (see 1990) the First Ladies were included.

- 1990 – The St. Louis convention celebrated the 75th anniversary of Kiwanis and saw the election of Dr. Will Blechman, the first Jewish International President. This influential president became the driving force behind our first ever three-year Major Emphasis Program "Young children Priority One!" which evolved into our Worldwide Service Project – Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) and then into our permanent organizational focus, "Serving the Children of the World." It is a measure of Wil's commitment and zeal that he insisted that, rather than put his and First Lady Rachel's photo on the cover of the October 1990 issue of Kiwanis magazine, which had become a tradition, the cover be devoted to "Young children Priority One!"



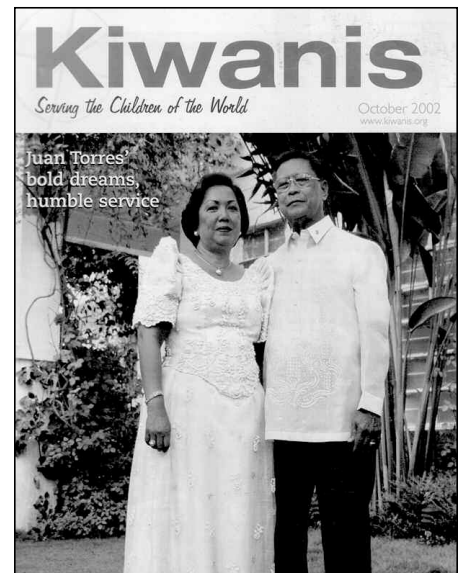
Walter and Irene Sellers



90th Anniversary

Tony Kaiser

- 1993 – The Nice, France convention, only the second to be held outside of North America, is especially noteworthy for the announcement by incoming President Art Swanberg of our first Worldwide Service Project, IDD and our partnering with UNICEF to implement it. To date, Kiwanis has raised over \$78 million for IDD and saved millions of children and adults from mental retardation, cretinism, goiter, and other serious illnesses. Also, 1993-94 saw the first female District Governor in our history: Marycel Engracia of our Philippine South District.
- 1994 – Elected in New Orleans as our 80th International President, Ian Perdriau from Melbourne, Australia was our first non-North American president.
- 1995 – Our second non-North American president and the first from Europe, Iceland's Eydur "Eddie" Sigurdsson immediately followed the first. Eddie later joined the staff heading up our European Federation office in Ghent, Belgium and still later became International's Executive Director in Indianapolis.



Alice and Juan "Ito" Torres

- 1997 – Walter Sellers of Xenia, Ohio elected at the Nashville, Tennessee convention was our 83rd President and the first African-American.
- 2001 – The first convention in our Asia-Pacific Region, in Taipei, Taiwan, was also noteworthy for the election to the International Board of Texan Lisa McCoy as the first female Board member. At the St. Louis convention in 2004 Lisa's bid to move up to the office of Vice President/Treasurer, which would have led to her being our first female president, failed.
- 2002 – Elected in New Orleans, Dr. Ito Torres was our first International President from the Philippines.
- 2004 – For the first time, our current International Board includes two female Trustees: Grete Hvardal from Norway filing the mandated 3-year seat of Region 3

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