

Developing leaders through active involvement

One Kiwanis Story



Above: Tom is elected in 1968 to lead an award winning Key Club in Mount Vernon High School and founded its first "Buddy Program" for children.

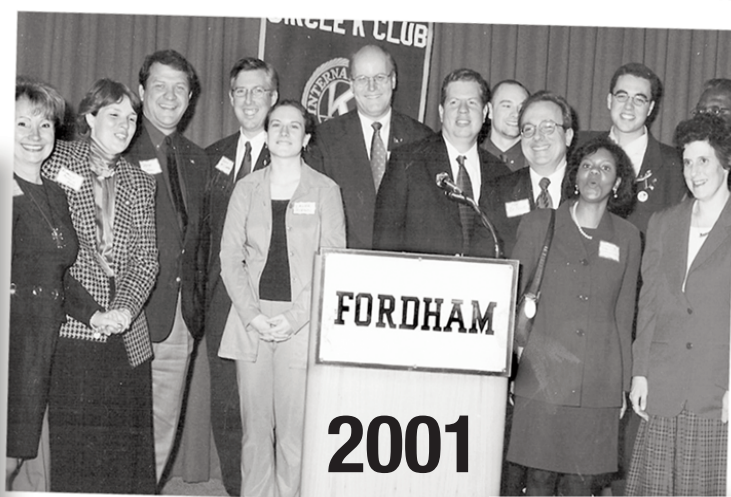
Here are a few glimpses that capture the development of a true Kiwanis leader:



Right: In 1970, the Circle K Club of Fordham University is formed by Tom and George S. Latimer (former CKI President and currently NY State Assemblyman for the 91st Assembly District)



1984

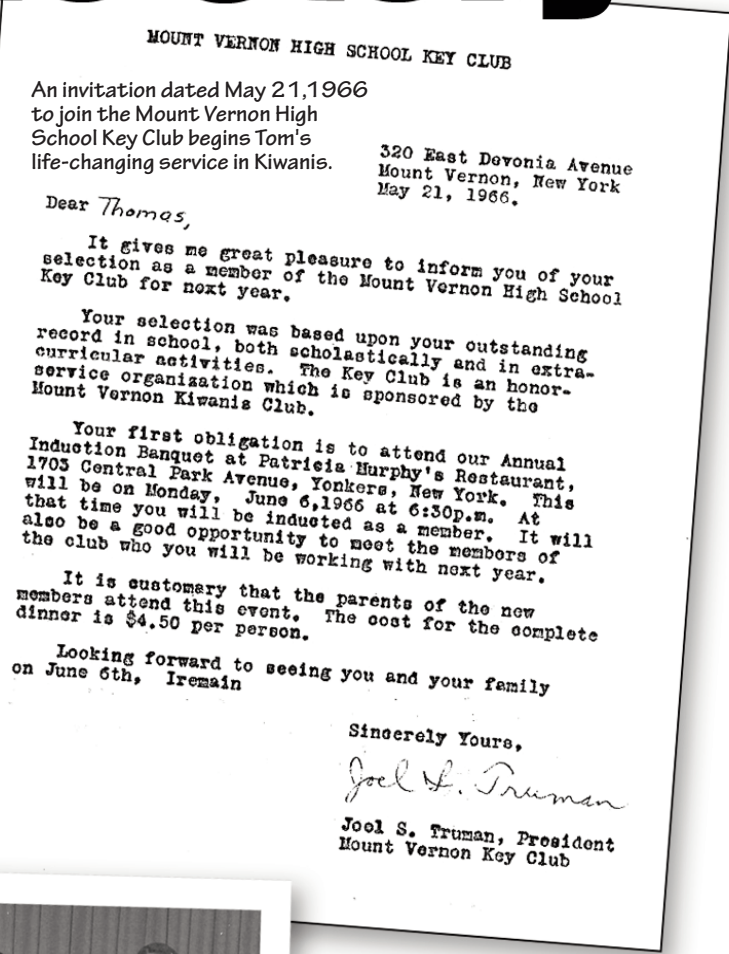


Former Circle K Members Pay it Forward

For five years starting in 1984, Tom served as District Administrator and advisor to college students representing over 25 New York Circle K clubs.

Not surprisingly, many of the Circle K members shown in the photo on the far left became successful in their professional careers and joined Kiwanis.

The photo on the left features just a few who became inspired to "pay it forward" and continue their volunteer service. In fact, several of these former Circle K members now have children who are members of Key Club.



Kiwanis Provides a Laboratory for Leadership

So says Paul Palazzolo who becomes President of Kiwanis International in Nashville this summer. His story, and mine, are rooted in service leadership, the invaluable opportunity we received when joining Key Club as freshmen in high school many years ago (many more years in my case). Paul and I are among the tens of thousands of former Key Club and Circle K members who have learned "life lessons" by becoming involved in the Kiwanis family of clubs, acquiring skills and experience that have made us who we are today. Kiwanis mentors taught us how to be part

of a team, how to speak before large audiences, how to organize a service project, how to care for the less fortunate, how to serve beyond self and how to make a real difference in the lives of others. What terrific leadership gifts Kiwanians gave us!

Kiwanis gave us genuine opportunities to be better public servants rewarded with lifelong friendships around the world.

Such great gifts offered by Kiwanis compel us to "pay it forward", a phrase that secularizes a powerful passage from scripture, "from those to whom much is given, much more is required".

Accordingly, the rest of my life will be devoted to Kiwanis, to insure that it maintains the strength of volunteers to impact the lives of others, especially young leaders who more than ever need to be mentored, befriended, and guided to assure their future success in their personal and professional lives so that they, too, will "pay it forward" to others.

And so, here lie the questions: Why is only a small fraction of our young adult leaders finding their way into Kiwanis? What new and creative ways can we design to include former



Tom was introduced to his wife of 34 years, Dr. Rosemary DeJulio by his Kiwanis sponsor. "Dr. Ro" is a 1994-95 distinguished Past Lt. Governor and now Master Instructor and CLE Coordinator for the NY District.

Key Club and CKI members on Kiwanis membership rosters? In keeping with the original Kiwanis motto "We Build", "if we build it, will they come?"

Let us do all we can to attract new Kiwanis members from the enormous pool of former Key Club and Circle K members. Exponential growth of Kiwanis depends largely on keeping the daughters and sons of Kiwanis actively involved in our family mission of service.



Help make my story which began in a Kiwanis laboratory of leadership more than 40 years ago, just one of hundreds of thousands that can impact more lives and change the world.

THOMAS E. DEJULIO

CANDIDATE FOR INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT 2010