



Kelly Meckstroth (President), Joe Gephart (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer & Past President)  
Board Members: Dennis Carity, Mark Greenwood, Katie Loehr, Marijo Poling, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

Address: P.O. Box 738, Piqua, OH 45356

website: [www.piquakiwanis.org](http://www.piquakiwanis.org)

## The History of Piqua Kiwanis Pancake Day

With 2024 marking our 69<sup>th</sup> year of our pancake day, it is fitting that we take a look at the history of this event.

It all started in 1955 when we flipped our first pancakes at the Greene Street United Methodist Church. The event was initially chaired by Dr. Kenneth Lyon and pancakes were actually served by "Aunt Jemima".

Since "Aunt Jemima" was actually a brand name and not a real person, it begs the question, "who actually served our pancakes?"

Nancy Green was hired in the 1890's as the original Aunt Jemima. In 1923 she was struck by an automobile in Chicago and died. So Nancy Green couldn't have been our server.

Following Green's death, a handful of women were hired to be "Aunt Jemima" until the brand was dropped in 2020. Most of these women did not qualify as our server due to a death prior to 1955, their age at that time, or their geographical location. There was one, however, that could have been a contender, Rosa Washington Riles.

Rosa was born in 1901 in Red Oak, Ohio and buried in 1969 in the same town. Rosa was recruited by Quaker Oats to portray Aunt Jemima and during her lifetime she traveled around the country making public appearances portraying Aunt Jemima. Unless an older club member knows for sure, we may never truly know the identity of the woman who served our pancakes.

Moving ahead seven years to 1962, the Armory became the new home for our Pancake Day event. Lee VanDervort was the chair of the event at that time and Aunt Jemima once again made an appearance and helped serve pancakes. As in 1955 the exact identity of this Aunt Jemina was not recorded in our Pancake Day history, but we can make a strong case once again for Rosa Washington Riles.

The following year, 1963, Walter Schumacher initiated the use of the carousel pancake grills. These grills have been in continuous use ever since and will be in use again at this year's Pancake Day.

In 2007 the club voted to move Pancake Day to the Upper Valley JVS, now the Upper Valley Career Center, where it is still being held to this day.

*Pancake Day history compliments of Gretchen Roeth*



---

## House Cleaning

### **Birthdays**

Joe Gebhart (February 9), Jimmie Reedy (February 16)

### **Anniversaries**

No February Anniversaries

### **Wednesday Programs - February 7, 21 and 28**

Gretchen will email program information as it becomes available.

The Board Meeting this month will immediately follow our regular February 28 meeting.

Wednesday meetings are held from noon to 1pm at the Piqua YWCA, 418 N. Wayne St., unless stated otherwise.

Currently, we do not meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

In the event of a program change, emails will be sent out with updated information.

Lunch reservations must be made by noon on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.

Contact Dennis Carity at 937-418-8478 to order a meal.

*DID YOU KNOW...*current and back issues of the newsletter and up to the minute meeting info can be found on our website at [www.piquakiwanis.org](http://www.piquakiwanis.org).

Newsletters are published at the first of the month. Please email news items to [mark1greenwood@gmail.com](mailto:mark1greenwood@gmail.com).

Items must be received at least one week prior to publication

## The Back Burner



Just a few things on the back burner that are worth noting:

### Head Start Reading - **Tue Feb. 13 & Tue March 12**

Volunteer readers needed! Contact Mark Wion for more details or to volunteer.

### Pancake Day - **Sat Mar 2**

This will be our 69th annual Pancake Breakfast and biggest fundraiser!

Volunteers are needed Fri. March 1 for setup, during the event itself, and cleanup after.

Volunteer signup sheet with times and duties will be emailed in February.

### Children's Traveling Opera - **Thur Mar 21**

Once again the Dayton Children's Traveling Opera will perform at Piqua Central Intermediate.

There will be two performances (8:30 and 10 am) with randomly selected student participants. This year's performance will be The Pirates of Penzance. Guests are welcome. Contact Mark Greenwood for details.

### Track Concession Stand - **Wed Mar 27, Wed Apr 10, Mon Apr 15, Wed May 1, & Thur May 2**

This is a wonderful fundraiser and a lot of fun. Volunteers are always needed. Work as little or as much as you like. Contact Mark Wion for more details or to volunteer.

### Bike Rodeo - **Fri May 10**

Annual Kiwanis Bike Rodeo during Piqua's Taste of the Arts Festival. Come on out and help us and Key Clubbers check in participants. Volunteers are also needed for setup.

Contact Mark Wion for more details or to volunteer.

## Springcreek K-Kids Bring Cheer to Nursing Home Seniors

Below, Springcreek K-Kids making placemats to brighten the lives of local nursing home residents on Valentine's Day! They will continue spreading good cheer during the month of February by writing letters to their penpals at Ayden Nursing Home!





## Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

### Find the Missing Dollar

Three people went to lunch and the bill came to \$30. They each gave the waiter \$10. The waiter took the \$30 and returned a few minutes with five one dollar bills and an explanation that a mistake had been made and the bill was actually \$25. The diners each took one dollar and left the remaining two dollars for the waiter. Since each diner originally paid \$10 but took back a dollar, they paid \$9 each. So, three times \$9 is \$27 plus the \$2 left for the waiter totals \$29. Since \$30 originally went out, where is the missing dollar?

(solution will appear in next month's newsletter)

(answers to January puzzlers)

1. Kevin's mother has three children. The first was called Alpha, the second was called Beta. What was the name of the third?

**answer: Kevin.** Alpha's mother and Beta's mother is also Kevin's mother.

2. Rearrange the letters in the words "new door" to make one word? There is only one correct answer.

**answer: one word.** You are asked to make the phrase "one word".

3. A family has two parents and six sons. Each of the sons has one sister. How many people are in the family?

**answer: nine.** 2 parents + 6 sons + 1 sister = 9 people. The six son's share the same one sister.

4. How can a man who shaves several times a day still sport a long beard?

**answer: he is a barber**

5. A man dies of old age on his 25th birthday. How is this possible?

**answer: he was born on February 29,** so his birthday is every four years!

6. In my hand I have two coins that are newly minted. Together, they total 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are the coins?

**answer: a quarter and a nickle.** Since one can't be a nickel it's a quarter, but the other can be anything.