



# Kiwaniis

## Gateway to the Islands



## *The Gateway Gazette*

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*“The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become”. – Harold Taylor*



**Kiwaniis Day with the Rays  
vs. Florida Marlins**

**THIS Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1:40 PM**

**Tickets: 888-FAN-RAYS or [www.raysbaseball.com](http://www.raysbaseball.com)**

### **NEW MEETING LOCATION!**

**Sunshine Seafood Café  
8750 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers**

**Cost: \$11.00 (includes tax and tip)**

**As a courtesy to our host, please RSVP promptly  
– thank you!**

## Meeting Calendar

June 15	Carlos Navedo - Animal Refuge Center
June 22	Mayer Berg- Riverland Nursery & Landscaping
June 29	Danielle Emery – Report on International Convention
July 6	Board Meeting – ALL members welcome!
July 13	Carol Simontacchi - Lifestyle education
July 20	Chris Heidrick - Heidrick & Co.
July 27	Rev. Rebecca G. Hines - Destiny Ministries of Southwest Florida, Inc.

## A Note From Your Substitute Program Chair, Viki Luster

I am finishing the year for our speakers. If any of you would like to speak, please let me know. You can choose the topic - yourself, your business, your passion, or your travels. Alternatively, if you have someone or something you would like to know more about, please send the information to [viki\\_luster@yahoo.com](mailto:viki_luster@yahoo.com) and I will look into getting a speaker. Thanks - any help I can get will be greatly appreciated.

***Mark your calendars - District Convention August 26-29, Orlando***

***Visit [FloridaKiwanis.com](http://FloridaKiwanis.com) for more information and to register  
Hotel reservation deadline - July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Convention registration deadline - August 1st***

***Please let Danielle Emery know if you are interested in attending.***

***All club members are welcome!***

## GTI's Biggest Fundraiser Now Underway!

Delicious Dining Discount books are now available for purchase. This year's edition contains "buy one get one" offers from 47 Lee County restaurants. At only \$20 per book, it's a great value. Last year, we raised over \$7,000 - help us raise even more this year! For more information, contact Viki Luster at: [vluster@nvtlsi.com](mailto:vluster@nvtlsi.com). To find out where to purchase books, visit our club website: [www.kiwanisgtti.com](http://www.kiwanisgtti.com).

### Service Opportunities

**Hats and Hugs** – We continue to collect **NEW stuffed animals** for Children’s Advocacy Center and **hats** for The Children’s Hospital.

**Tales for Tots** – We are still collecting books for children ages 0-2 for Brightest Horizons.

**The Heights Foundation** - We will be giving a check for \$200 to The Heights Foundation summer camp for the purchase of healthy snacks and craft supplies for activity kits.

In addition, The Heights Foundation has invited GTTI members to attend its **Mom and Tots Play Group** to volunteer and learn more about this organization. If interested, please contact Diane Connell at: [dconnell@cac-swfl.org](mailto:dconnell@cac-swfl.org).

### June 8 Meeting Highlights

- **Backpack Program for Heights Elementary – We are still researching this project. The latest possibility is to partner with Brightest Horizons.**
- **Thank you to the Fort Myers South Kiwanis Club for selling \$300 worth of Dining Books.**
- **An inter-club meeting with LaBelle has been scheduled for June 15th.**
- **The Installation Banquet will be held on either September 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. The location is to be determined.**
- **Terry asked for the club to consider giving a \$60 grant to the First United Methodist Church to pay for one week of summer camp for a needy child.**
- **Kiwanis International has approved a corporate membership for businesses. For the same price as an individual membership, businesses can purchase a membership that would allow them to send any staff member to club meetings.**
- **The Builder’s Club delivered donations last week to Animal Refuge Center. Events planned for next year include a beach clean-up and Trunk or Treat.**

**Guest Speaker: Toby Buerger, Vice President of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is a one-to-one mentoring program that fosters self-esteem, trust and positive relationships in at-risk youth ages 5-17. BBBS offers two mentoring programs: Community-based and Littles for Literacy. Community-based is their traditional program in which positive adult role models share everyday experiences with their Littles. Participants undergo an in-depth interview before being matched with someone of the same gender. Currently, BBBS has 180 community-based matches in Lee County, and an additional 200 kids on the waiting list. Of the total waitlisted, 175 are boys.

Littles for Literacy takes place on-site at elementary and middle schools. Bigs meet with their Littles for one hour a week during the school year to focus on academics and build social skills. Children are referred by teachers or guidance counselors. BBBS has 200 school-based matches in Lee County.

While the organization relies on FGCU students, high-school students and empty nesters to volunteer as Bigs, they always need more volunteers. In addition, they are looking for new board members. To find out more, visit their website at [www.hereforthekids.org](http://www.hereforthekids.org).

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**Kiwanis Gateway to the Islands 2009-2010 Board of Directors**

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*Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers changing the world one child and one community at a time.*