



CKI Pledge

I pledge to uphold the objects of Circle K International, to foster compassion and goodwill towards others through service and leadership, to develop my abilities and abilities of all people, and to dedicate myself to the realization of mankind's potential.

Volume 1, Issue 3
November/December 2003

The Inner CirKle

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Dates To Remember:

*Monday December 8th- Final CKI Meeting For The Semester; End Of Semester Party; Adopt-A-Family Drop Off

*Thursday December 11th- Toy/Clothing Drive & Bake Sale

*Saturday December 13th- Breakfast With Santa With East Brunswick Kiwanis; Salvation Army Bell Ringing With East Brunswick Kiwanis; Special Olympics Floor Hockey In Princeton

*Monday December 15th- Blood Drive At Metuchen Public Library

*Wednesday December 17th- East Brunswick Kiwanis Meeting

Goodbye To You By- Emily Madera

It all began four years ago. I was at Rowan University for freshman orientation. My roommate for the weekend had her friends from home, so I spent the night by myself. With nothing to do, I decided to read through all of the information that I had received. That was when I came across a flier that stated you could meet new people, help children, and had fun. That flier was for Circle K International.

When the fall arrived, I joined Circle K. I immediately took the position of Scrapbook Chair, and by the time District Convention arrived, I had produced a scrapbook that took home the second place award. During the spring semester I was elected club treasurer. I had seen all that Circle K had to offer me...the service, definitely the leadership, and of course the fellowship.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, I could not return to Rowan the following fall, so I transferred to Middlesex County College, where Circle K did not exist. One day, I had received an E-mail from the District Governor who was looking to charter a club at Middlesex County College...I knew that was my time to shine.

After much hard work and dedication, a club was chartered at Middlesex. I was elected President, and I tried my best to make the club one of the strongest in the New Jersey District. The first year was a bit rocky, as I was not really sure how to organize this club. As time went by, things got better. I had a wonderful group of charter members who wanted to do service, learn to be strong

leaders, and have some fun...just what the organization is all about. Additionally, by the end of the first year, I had received a scholarship paying for my whole next semester at Middlesex.

Now, as I leave, I feel that Middlesex County College Circle K is the strongest that it has ever been. The dedication from the members has been incredible. The ideas that the members have are going to keep this club going and strong as it is now, if not stronger. I want to say a personal thank you to all the current and past members of this club. With out them, the club would have failed a long time ago.

My personal growth from joining this organization really shows the full potential of what Circle K can do for an individual. I hope that this club and its members will continue to grow through the years, just as I have. I wish future members the best of luck in keeping this club alive. I want you all to know that you are my best friends and I will love you all forever.



Goodbye Emily! Thanks SO much for EVERYTHING!!!
We love you and you will be missed!

The Holiday Season, A Season For Caring By- JulieAnne Paszkiewicz

The holidays are a great time to spend with friends, catch up with family, and even exchange gifts and hopes for the New Year. However, the holiday season can also be a hard time of year for people in need. So this year, some members of our club had the great idea to sponsor a family who would not have otherwise been able to afford a Christmas.

With the help of fundraisers and outside contributions from Marty Teller (of East Brunswick Kiwanis), Tom Peterson (our club advisor), Emily Madera (the club's immediate past president), Theresa Saunders, John Weisbecker, Julie Frenkel, and Joshua Frenkel, we were able to supply a disadvantaged family of three from Essex County with a Christmas that will hopefully warm their hearts as much as it warmed the hearts of the club members who went shopping for just the rights gifts.

Among the gifts bought were rhythm sticks and a basketball for the 22-year-old developmentally disabled son, Barbie dolls and play sets for the 7-

year-old daughter (who is also developmentally disabled), and perfume for the single, unemployed mother. Additionally, we were also able to purchase several items of clothing and glove/hat sets to keep the family warm this winter.

I had a wonderful time shopping on Thursday for a majority of the gifts with my fellow club members Liz and Tiffany, as well as our volunteer "elf" Theresa. Liz and Kasi braved the snow over the weekend in order to finish up in time for the Monday the 8th drop off in Bloomfield. I think that Adopt-A-Family was a great experience for the entire club and I believe that each of us received a special gift of our own by taking part in this project.

Happy Holidays From Our
K-Family To Yours!!!



My Old And New Must See Holiday Picks By- JulieAnne Paszkiewicz

The 1991 film “All I Want For Christmas” is a comedy about two New York City children who launch a hilarious scheme to get what they most want this holiday season. Ethan, a practical older brother, and adorable Hallie, who knows how to charm her way out of a difficult situation, are intent on spending Christmas with their divorced parents, Catherine and Michael, and grandmother, Lillian. As Ethan and Hallie embark on their adventure, almost nothing goes exactly as they planned. Complicating things is a jerky businessman named Toney Boer, who has taken an interest in Catherine. Ethan, meanwhile, is preoccupied with not only his parents' romantic dilemma, but also his own - one brought about by his new friendship with Stephanie, his first teenage crush. What evolves is an elaborate scheme involving mice, telephone calls, and an ice-cream truck, as Ethan and Hallie try to achieve their goal with the help of Stephanie. The duo's primary obstacle is their mother's fiancée, Tony. The children finally succeed with a little Christmas magic from Santa Claus. I would give this movie a three overall, but it is still a must see.



“Love Actually” is the 2003 drama set to unfold during the four weeks before Christmas. It is a wonderful story that ended up to being ten or so different love stories that are all intertwined between the eight main characters (one of which being the Prime Minister of England played by Hugh Grant). The stories were not just of falling in love, but also touched on falling out of love, loving the wrong people, affairs, death, and how love begins and ends. The director points out very vividly that love has no age or social barriers. I must tell you though it is a roller coaster of emotions throughout the movie. I cried and I think some of you will also. Out of five stars I give it a four.



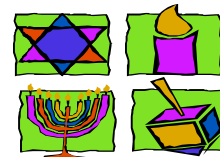
Holiday Movie Top Ten List By- Theresa Burns

With the holiday season approaching, many people will be looking for that perfect holiday movie to watch with their loved ones. The problem is, however, with so many great movies out there, what ones should we weed out and what ones should we keep around? A poll was taken to help answer this very question, so here are the top ten choices for the all-time best holiday movies. Have a great time watching these timeless classics and Happy Holidays!



- 10- Home Alone
- 9- Elf
- 8- The Santa Claus
- 7- The Grinch (live action)
- 6- Miracle on 34th Street (original)
- 5- Frosty the Snow Man (animated)
- 4- Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer (clamation)
- 3- The Grinch (animated)
- 2- It's a Wonderful Life
- 1- A Christmas Story





Holiday Word Find

A	A	O	E	A	S	R	E	R	E	A
H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H	U	P	O
G	Z	O	D	R	P	R	N	E	R	N
N	N	I	O	C	C	T	A	T	E	A
E	A	T	E	A	T	C	R	A	A	S
W	W	U	M	M	E	N	O	R	A	H
Y	K	L	E	D	I	E	R	D	O	A
E	K	O	S	D	E	S	A	L	W	L
A	A	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C
R	T	E	E	F	I	D	A	Y	A	R
O	P	R	I	H	A	T	T	E	A	Y
L	E	G	S	Y	E	E	O	S	H	C

Word List

*Christmas *Dreidel *Gifts
*Hanukkah *Holiday *Kwanzaa
*Menorah *New Year *Peace
*Resolution *Santa

Holiday Word Scramble

1- ERMCEBDE 2- TAPYR 3- OYJ
4- YFIMLA 5- ETRE 6- DENCLA
7- ORLTUSEOIN 8- FGITS
9- INAIM 10- AZAWNKA

How To Wish Your Family & Friends A Happy New Year

Gung Hay Fat Choy! (Chinese); Bonne Année! (French); Gutes Neues Jahr! (German); Eutychismenos Ho! (Greek); Shanah Tovah! (Hebrew); Buon Capo d'Anno! (Italian); Akemashite Omedetou
Kainourgios Chronos! (Japanese); Maligayang Bagong Taon! (Philippino); Szczesliwego Nowego Roku! (Polish); Feliz Ano Novo! (Portuguese); S Novym Godom! (Russian); Feliz Ano Nuevo! (Spanish); Gott Nytt Ar! (Swedish)

***Kwanzaa** is an Afro-American holiday based on the traditional African festival of the harvest of the first crops. It begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days. The word Kwanzaa, sometimes spelled Kwanza, comes from a phrase which means first fruits in Swahili (also called Kiswahili), an East African language. The holiday was developed in 1966 in the United States by Maulana Karenga, a professor of Pan-African studies and black cultural leader. It combines traditional African practices with Afro-American aspirations and ideals. The holiday centers around the Nguzo Saba, seven principles of black culture that were developed by Karenga. These principles are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the seven principles. In the evening, family members light one of the seven candles in a kinara (candleholder) and discuss the principle for the day. Members of many families exchange gifts, some of which are homemade. Near the end of the holiday, the community gathers for a feast called karamu. A typical karamu features traditional African food, ceremonies honoring the ancestors, assessments of the old year and commitments for the new, performances, music, and dancing.

***Hanukkah** is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. The Hebrew word Hanukkah (also written Hannuka or Chanukah) means dedication. The Hanukkah holiday begins on the eve of the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (approximately December) and lasts eight days. During Hanukkah, gifts are exchanged and contributions made to the poor. On the first evening, one candle is lighted in a special eight-branched candelabrum called a menorah or hanukkiyah. Beginning on the second night, one candle is added every night until the total reaches eight on the last night. The candles are lighted by a separate candle called a shamash. The two books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha tell the story of Hanukkah. In 165 B.C., after a three-year struggle led by Judah Maccabee, the Jews in Judea defeated the Syrian tyrant Antiochus IV. They held festivities in the Temple in Jerusalem, and dedicated it to God. According to the Talmud, written many centuries after the event, when the Jews cleaned the Temple of Syrian idols, they found only one small cruse of oil with which to light their holy lamps. But miraculously, the cruse provided them with oil for eight days. Other sources tell of a torchlight parade in the Temple, which may also have contributed to the tradition of lighting candles on Hanukkah.

***Christmas** is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth, but most Christians observe Christmas on December 25. On this day, many go to church, where they take part in special religious services. During the Christmas season, they also exchange gifts and decorate their homes with holly, mistletoe, and Christmas trees. The word Christmas comes from Cristes maesse, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ. The story of Christmas comes chiefly from the Gospels of Saint Luke and Saint Matthew in the New Testament. According to Luke, an angel appeared to shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem and told them of Jesus' birth. Matthew tells how the wise men, called Magi, followed a bright star that led them to Jesus. The first mention of December 25 as the birth date of Jesus occurred in A.D. 336 in an early Roman calendar. The celebration of this day as Jesus' birth date was probably influenced by pagan (un-Christian) festivals held at that time. The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honor Saturn, their harvest god; and Mithras, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe held festivals in mid-December to celebrate the end of the harvest season. As part of all these celebrations, the people prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebration. In the late 300's, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. By 1100, Christmas had become the most important religious festival in Europe, and Saint Nicholas was a symbol of gift giving in many European countries. During the 1400's and 1500's, many artists painted scenes of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus. The popularity of Christmas grew until the Reformation, a religious movement of the 1500's. This movement gave birth to Protestantism. During the Reformation, many Christians began to consider Christmas a pagan celebration because it included nonreligious customs. During the 1600's, because of these feelings, Christmas was outlawed in England and in parts of the English colonies in America. The old customs of feasting and decorating, however, soon reappeared and blended with the more Christian aspects of the celebration. In the 1800's, two more Christmas customs became popular—decorating Christmas trees and sending Christmas cards to relatives and friends. Many well-known Christmas carols, were composed during this period. In the United States and other countries, Santa Claus replaced Saint Nicholas as the symbol of gift giving.

Service Update By- Elizabeth Frenkel

Over the Fall semester, Middlesex County College Circle K has been focusing quite a bit on the service aspect of the organization. Club members have been turning in great amounts of individual service hours (headed up by club Vice President Matthew Gasero and member Karen M. Zullo...both members of different rescue squads). In the month of October, the club worked to raise over \$100 for Unicef by tabling for the charity, as well as going door-to-door on Halloween night asking for donations. In November, the club began taking part in service projects with East Brunswick Kiwanis (their sponsoring Kiwanis club). Toward the middle of the month, the club worked with East Brunswick to collect new and gently used items for Women's Aware (a women's shelter in New Brunswick). Furthermore, throughout the month of December, members of our club have been volunteering their time to ring the Salvation Army bell in the Brunswick Square mall on Saturdays with the sponsoring group. The club will also be helping East Brunswick Kiwanis at their annual Breakfast With Santa. Also, from late November through December 8th, the club worked on their Adopt-A-Family project where they helped provide a Christmas for an economically disadvantaged family of three from Essex County. Additionally, the club will be holding a Toy/Clothing Drive on Thursday December 11th. All items collected will be donated to various organizations helping needy children in the New Jersey area. Furthermore, the club has held several tabling sessions and bake sales to raise money for The Children's Miracle Network, The Tomorrow Fund, and The Brian C. Kull Foundation (the three organizations the club has chosen to raise money for this year). As the semester comes to a close, members of the service committee are already planning several service projects for the spring which range from various walk-a-thons to a full fledged health fair for those in need. I would also like to thank everyone who has been doing service for and/or with the club, your hard work and dedication is appreciated. Also, if anyone has any service ideas, please feel free to let me know anytime...suggestions are always welcomed and appreciated.



Fundraising Update By- Tiffany Alexander

This semester our club has taken part in several fundraising projects. Our first fundraiser was the Turkey Shoot which was quite successful and put our club in a good financial position. Currently, the club is in the process of selling Entertainment Books.

Although things are moving slowly, we are confident that this fundraiser has great potential to pick up. The club has also been holding one to two bake sales each month which has proven to be quite lucrative. Additionally, the club is in the process of planning a tricky tray for the spring term. Thank you so much to all who have helped out with the fundraisers, it is greatly appreciated. If there is anyone with any ideas for fundraisers, please feel free to contact me anytime...I am always open to suggestions!



Social Update By- Kasi Le Grand

This semester, our club has come a long way socially. Aside from the fact that we have managed to hold socials on a regular basis (atleast once a month), we have always had a good amount of members in attendance. In September, the club had a simple, get to know you dinner at Pizzeria Uno in Edison. Over ten members came for a night of good food, good conversation, and not so good karaoke. The club held two socials in the month of October...both of which were very well attended with atleast six members each. The first one was to Creamy Acres for a spooky night of haunted houses and hayrides. The second one took place just a few days later at Six Flags Great Adventure for the park's annual Fright Fest. The November social was held at my house where about four of us got together to eat some junk food and enjoy the movie Identity. Also in November, the club had a night out bowling with our sponsoring Kiwanis club where we had a group of over fifteen members from both our club and Kiwanis. The social committee is currently in the process of planning two wonderful socials for the month of December. The first social (going to Six Flags Great Adventure's Winter Lights display) is being planned for mid-month, and the second (a day in New York City) is being planned for later in the month. Sadly, December will be my last month as Social Chair because I will be graduating at the conclusion of the semester. I am confident that whom ever I choose to take over my position will do a wonderful job planning/carrying out the socials for the remainder of the year.



Goodbye Kasi! Thank you for all you have done!!! We love you and will miss you!





Visit Our Web Site:
<http://www.angelfire.lycos.com/nj4/mccirclek>



Email The Club:
MCCCKIClubmail@yahoo.com

Our Club Meets Every Monday
 At 11am
 In Room 314
 Of The College Center



Answers To The Holiday Word Scramble

- 1- December
- 2- Party
- 3- Joy
- 4- Family
- 5- Tree
- 6- Candle
- 7- Resolution
- 8- Gifts
- 9- Imani
- 10- Kwanzaa

Middlesex County College
 Circle K International
 Would Like To Wish One And All
 The VERY Best For
 The Holiday Season
 And
 The New Year!!!



A Little Bit Of Insight By- Kasi Le Grand

In the month of November, the Circle K International clubs of the New Jersey District get together for the annual retreat they call Insight, and this year was no different.. Over the weekend of November 14th-16th, the clubs met at Camp Mason of Hardwick, New Jersey where they engaged in many fun filled and "insightful" activities. These are meant to give members more insight into important aspects of running a club or organization. At this particular Insight, some of those "insightful" activities included the line walk, paper puzzle maze, and the frisbee toss and walk. My favorite activity was the paper puzzle maze because my team in particular really worked together to communicate and helped one another figure out the puzzle. the main point of this activity, which is an invaluable attribute for a club member to possess. All of the activities, in their own way, taught us all how to communicate and work well together.

This particular Insight was bitter sweet for me and the rest of the Middlesex County College Circle K members. Emily and I are both graduating at the end of the semester and therefore, this was our last trip to Insight...atleast as members of MCC CKI. As always, my fellow members/friends made the trip fun and unforgettable. Although, we do not always see eye to eye, we are always friends. I truly feel blessed to have spent the last two Insight trips with these great people. I

am sure that, like me, Emily is looking forward to forming new friendships and bonds with another group of Circle K members, but we regret having to say goodbye to the ones we have already formed a strong bond with. However, just as the saying goes, "It is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all." Luckily we do not have to say goodbye...we will be friends forever!

