

Nashville Music City Kiwi Chapter

June 2026 Newsletter

Dear Fellow Kiwis,

As we head into the summer months, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and encouragement. It is truly an honor to serve as your Chapter president, and I am grateful for the friendships, dedication, and enthusiasm that makes our chapter so special.

Summer is often a time for travel, family gatherings, and a little well-deserved relaxation. I hope each of you enjoys a safe, happy, and refreshing summer break while staying connected with fellow kiwis whenever possible.

Although many activities slow down during the summer, our commitment to volunteering at Second Harvest Foodbank continues. I'm proud you support Second Harvest throughout the season. Your generosity and willingness to help others truly reflect the caring spirit of our kiwis.

As a reminder, September will be the start of membership renewals for both National dues and our local chapter dues. Your continued membership helps keep our chapter active, engaged, and able to support the charities and friendships we value so much.

I am excited to share how much I'm looking forward to the 2028 Convention in Palm Springs. Serving as Co-Chairperson is both an honor and an exciting opportunity. Planning is already underway for what will be a truly wonderful event with fellowship, fun, and memorable experiences. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend!

Thank you again for your continued support and participation in our chapter.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Kiwi love,

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Music City Kiwi Club – Member Spotlight

Elizabeth “Liz” Weller



Class 1978/May

For this month’s Kiwi Spotlight, we are featuring Elizabeth “Liz” Weller, whose aviation journey began after working as a travel agent for two years. Liz loved helping people plan exciting adventures and dreamed of something even bigger for herself. When several of her sorority sisters were hired by different airlines, she realized they were “having more fun” than she was —so she decided to apply herself. That decision led her into a memorable 15-year flying career filled with adventure, friendship, and unforgettable experiences. During her years with the airline, Liz flew many exciting routes including ORD-LAX-SFO-DFW-BOS-DFW-MIA-ORD. Of all the destinations she visited, San Francisco held a special place in her heart and remains her favorite layover city. One of Liz’s most memorable experiences happened while she was on reserve duty. She was called out on a trip to Las Vegas to bring home passengers who had survived a major hotel fire. Although the passengers had lost many of their belongings and still smelled of smoke, Liz remembers how grateful and relieved they were simply to be safely heading home. It was a powerful reminder of how important kindness and compassion can be during difficult moments.

When asked what advice she would give to new flight attendants, Liz shared these simple but meaningful words:

“Don’t be afraid to ask questions and offer to help!”

Today, Liz enjoys spending time with family, gardening, and exercising. What she treasures most from her airline career is the friendships she made along the way — friendships that continue through the Music City Kiwi Club today. And when asked to describe the flight attendant lifestyle in

one word, Liz answered perfectly:

“Fun!”

Music City Kiwis — The Sky’s The Limit

June and July Birthdays

June Birthdays

Melissa Williams McGrath – June 11

Kay Little – June 15

Ginger Mandas Friedlob – June 28

July Birthdays

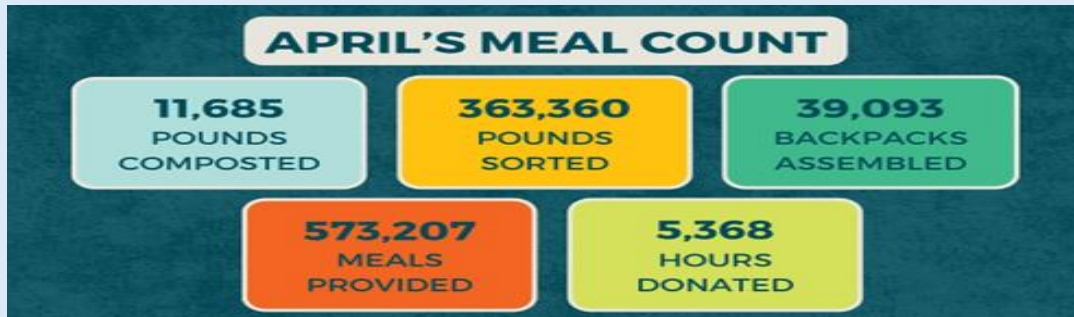
Shirlee Keyes Albrecht – July 30



NEXT VOLUNTEER DATE:

Second Harvest Food Bank

June 11, 2026, 1pm until 3pm



**Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
The Martin Distribution Center
331 Great Circle Road Nashville, TN 37228**

April 2026 Numbers

2 ½ Pallets

86 Boxes

602 Bags

2408 Meals

May 2026 Numbers

2 ½ Pallets

85 Boxes

598 Bags

2392 Meals

Second Harvest Volunteer days:

July 9th, 2026

August 13th, 2026

September 10th, 2026

October 13, 2026

November 10th, 2026

December 10th, 2026



Mark your calendars for the fall meetings:

September 8th, 2026 - (location)

October 13th, 2026 - Paula Hubbard Schmickrath's home.

November 10th, 2026 - Friendsgiving - Sam Gooch's home.

So many Events happened in May

*May 16th, 2026, Melissa and Sam attended Kris's Art exhibit.
"Retrospective of a Nashville Icon The Life and Art of Anton Weiss"
Bennett Galleries is where Kris Prunitsch Bennett's artwork was
featured.*



Sam, Kris and Melissa



240 players and sponsors showed up May 14, 2026, at Hermitage golf course to support Buddy Allen Floor and Home 8th annual Tunnel2Towers fundraiser.

Jenna Allen and her terrific committee (including Terri) work hard year-round to make this one of the best golf tournaments in the area.

Over \$75,000 was raised this year.

Including the Bingo/auction night over &100,000 will again be donated to our favorite charity.

T2T supports all first responders with smart homes, paying off home mortgages, special home for vets that include training and education and so much more. 95% of all donations are used for these programs. On top of all that the leaders of this organization are super humans!!

T2T just built 4 homes in the Franklin area, Buddy All was a proud sponsor of all the flooring.

May Nashville Music City Kiwi Chapter Meeting photos...



Paula Hubbard Schmickrath - Chapter President



*Caroline Ballachey Womack &
Sam Gooch*



Terri Parks Allen



Sandy Carney



*Melissa Williams McGrath and
Janice Delmonico Buck*



(L to R) front row: Sandy Carney, Gerrie Skaggs McAlhany, Wanda Barry Kromer, Ginger Mandas Friedlob, Terri Parks Allen, JJ Love. (behind Terri and JJ) Melissa Williams McGrath.
(Back row) Martha Clark, Sam Gooch, Janice Delmonico Buck, Paula Hubbard Schmickrath and Caroline Ballachey Womack.



and yes, Gerrie does love Sam!



Congratulations:

Melissa Williams McGrath - National President 2026-2028

Wanda Barry Kromer - National Treasurer 2026-2028

Sam Gooch - Life Member Award & Polly Toll Goodman Award

Pictures from THE KIWI CLUB 2026 CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO



*Sam Gooch and
Caroline Ballachey Womack*



Melissa Williams McGrath



Gerrie and the Alpaca



Sam Gooch crowned



*Melissa Williams McGrath
& Sam Gooch, First dance*



*Tommy Thompson
& Terri Parks Allen*



*Sherri Engle Lowe and
Terri Parks Allen with
the Alpaca*



*Sam Gooch dancing
with Jim Kubal, husband
husband of Vicki
Valenciano Kubal.*



Kiwis on the San Antonio Riverboat Cruise



*(L to R) National Executive Board:
Stephanie McCauley Butler, Advisor, Linda Hessler Radke, VP,
Melissa Williams McGrath, President, Kathy Schmidt Kuzminski,
2nd VP, Martha Freeman Cunningham, Secretary, Wanda Barry Kromer,
Treasurer and Vicki Valenciano Kubal, Past President.*

Fun memories...

Officers and support staff of Nashville Music City Kiwi Chapter

President

Paula Hubbard Schmickrath

Co-Vice Presidents

Janice Delmonico Buck

Martha Clark

Secretary

Terri Parks Allen

Treasurer

Sam Gooch

Photographer

JJ Love & Bio's