

**“Building our community one child at a time”
For the past Century!**

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

March 1, 2018

Our 100th Anniversary!



Well, after months and really years of anticipation, we are ready to celebrate our club's 100th Anniversary this month! If you have not already made reservations for our Gala on **March 10**, do so now! We want a big turnout of members, friends and family to join us in celebrating the rich history and contributions of our club to our community. Our hard-working 100th Anniversary Gala Committee has been meeting monthly to plan the event. We have over 60 sponsors and patrons. We expect to raise over \$10,000 for our Foundation. Our goal has been to have 100 guests at the Gala. Today is the last day for reservations. We may come up short of our goal, but we still expect a great crowd. We have invited our Service Leadership Programs to join us. That includes Key Clubs at Allen, Allentown Central Catholic and Salisbury High Schools; the Builders Club at Raub Middle School; and our K-Kids Clubs at Ramos and Washington Elementary Schools. Clubs from Division 18 have been invited, and we will even have guests from our neighboring Division 17. Pennsylvania District Kiwanis **Governor Judy Raub** will be attending, as well as Director **Kevin Thomas** from Harrisburg. We are expecting several elected officials including Lehigh County Executive **Phillips Armstrong**, State Representative **Mike Schlossburg**, and **Ellen Kern**, Chief of Staff for State Senator Pat Browne, and a Past President of our club. Allentown School Superintendent **Thomas Parker** will be attending. The Gala will start with a reception from 5-6 PM that will feature hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. You will enjoy musical entertainment by a pianist from the Community Music School who will feature jazz music from the 1920's.

There will be a bar with craft beer from Hijinx Brewery and wine from Sleepy Cat Urban Winery. We wanted to support local businesses at the Gala, and both companies are from Allentown. Flowers are being provided by Bonnie's Flower Boutique, also from Allentown. After the reception will be a fabulous dinner prepared by Muhlenberg College's food service provider, Sodexo. There will be fresh, chef-prepared entrees and sides from local farm-to-table sources. We will then enjoy a slice of Anniversary cake! After dinner, there will be remarks from Kiwanis Governor Judy Raub and **Sam Saxton**, our longest-serving member of 65 + years. A highlight of the evening will be a PowerPoint slide show created and narrated by **Enos Martin**, featuring highlights of our club's and Foundation's history. We will have a Silent Auction with several unique gift baskets to bid on. And we will have tables of club memorabilia, including posters with a photo montage of every President of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown, and Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown, since their founding. You will definitely get a sense of our club's rich history, and its legacy in the community, this evening. So please plan to be there and **CELEBRATE** with us!

February Meeting



Our guest speaker at the February 8 lunch meeting was **Beverly Bradley**, President of the Lehigh Valley chapter of the Cops 'n Kids Literacy Program. Beverly was a teacher at the Southern Lehigh High School for 30 years before becoming President of Cops 'n Kids. The Quota Club adopted Cops 'n Kids internationally many years ago. Last year, over 862,000 books were distributed to children through the organization. Beverly praised her "army of volunteers" for distributing books to every school in Allentown. Each year, Emmaus High School has a book drive to collect new or gently used books that are distributed to the Sheridan, Jackson, and Muhlenberg Elementary Schools in Allentown. "Children need to dream" Beverly remarked, "I want them to have hope." Her belief is that when the community gives love and hope to a child, that child will grow up to love his or her school and community. For the past 11 years, Air Products and a host of other sponsors have supported a Cops 'n Kids banquet, named "A Celebration of Reading." This year's event will be held on April 28. The event raises money for the organization as well as recognizes children for success in literacy and academic performance. Last year, Cops 'n Kids Lehigh Valley gave out between 50,000 – 70,000 books. Area high schools support the effort. Liberty High School football players visited the Lincoln Elementary School in Bethlehem to the delight of the students there. Every year, children from the Cops 'n Kids program decorate the Mayor's Christmas Tree in Bethlehem. Beverly described her program as one about "kindness and community." Those are certainly values we have as a Kiwanis club

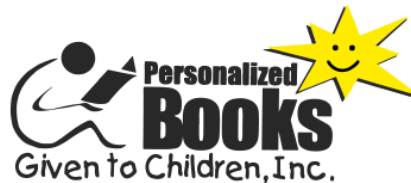


Service Leadership Programs Report



At their last meeting, club shirts were handed out to members of the **Raub Middle School Builders Club**. They are planning a bake sale to raise money to buy fans for the classrooms. The building is old, and does not have AC. Fans would circulate air and make the classrooms more comfortable during warm days. The **Washington Elementary School K-Kids Club** continues to meet and pick up litter around the school. The **Ramos Elementary School K-Kids Club**, has been raising money for the "Pennies for Patients" cause to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Personalized Books Schedule



There are **no book distributions in March** due to PSAT testing. Next schools to be visited will be Roosevelt and Sheridan in April.

February Service Project

Young Chang, Tracy Davis, Eleana Belletieri and Tom Harp volunteered to help out with the IHOP National Pancake Day fundraiser on February 27 to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. All that day IHOP offered a free short stack of pancakes to its customers. As guests paid their bills, we encouraged them to make a donation to LLS. With a donation of \$1 or \$5 they wrote their names on cards that were displayed on the walls. It was a big turnout of hungry customers that raised hundreds of dollars for LLS. Thanks to all who helped out with this worthwhile fundraiser.

100th Anniversary Historic Moment - Final Edition!

Kiwanis was founded in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 to serve those who were suffering from the hardships of World War I. The Kiwanis Club of Allentown was chartered in March 1918. Allentown was the 115th Kiwanis Club established and is the 72nd oldest club still in existence.

Kiwanis's motto is "Serving the Children of the World." Through 100 years with two world wars, prosperity, depression, recession and inflation, the club has always fulfilled this motto.

- In October 1918, Kiwanis Club of Allentown members sold Liberty War bonds to support World War I and raised over \$1,282,000 in a single day! They followed this monumental effort by obtaining pledges totaling \$1,021,150 for the Victory Loan Program in May, 1919.
- Also, in October, 1918 the Club funded and operated a temporary home to provide medical care for convalescent children ill with the Spanish Flu.
- In 1922, the Club raised \$14,000 to restore and beautify Allen Park at Trout Hall.
- From 1920 through the mid-1950s, the Club held a Christmas Party serving from 500 to 1,200 needy children each year and provided them with candy, fruit and presents. This tradition continues today as we host about 160 children of the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers for a Christmas Party with lunch, a magic show, and presents for each child. Each summer, we have a picnic for over 200 children with fun and games for all.
- In 1931, the Club operated a storeroom where food and clothing were distributed weekly to approximately 325 families.
- For over 40 years, beginning in 1932, Allentown Kiwanis sponsored a Boy Scout troop for needy boys. A Girl Scout troop was added in 1934. In 1955, Allentown Kiwanians built a cabin for the Girl Scouts at Camp Mosey Wood at a cost of \$6,000.
- Key Club sponsorship began at William Allen HS in 1946, Allentown Central Catholic HS in 1949, and Parkland HS in 1953. Currently our club sponsors Key Clubs at William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, and Salisbury High Schools, a Builders Club at the Raub Middle School, and K-Kids Clubs at the Ramos and Washington Elementary Schools.
- Other recent projects include painting of the West Park Bandshell and the Canal Boat House, cleanup at LVCC facilities, trash pickup along the American Parkway and delivery of Meals on Wheels on Thanksgiving Day.

In 1952, the Club's Board of Directors formed the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown. Initial funding of \$25,000 came from donations by 180 club members. Since its formation, the Foundation has awarded over \$1,100,000 in grants to approximately 200 organizations. Some of the significant grants awarded by our Foundation include:

- The Salvation Army was awarded \$4,000 in 1962 to renovate their building.
- Sacred Heart Hospital received \$6,000 in 1973 in support of a Speech and Hearing Clinic.
- In 1974, Casa Guadalupe received \$5,200 for aid to underprivileged people.
- The Spanish Center of Allentown was granted \$16,956 to purchase a building in 1976.
- The City of Allentown was granted \$10,000 in 1983 to support the purchase of an ambulance.
- LV Children's Centers received \$7,500 in 1992 in support of their Alliance Hall Project.
- Two major grants were given to the Salvation Army (\$40,000) and the Lehigh County Historical Society (\$10,00) in support of building projects.
- The two largest grants ever awarded by the Foundation, \$50,000 each, were in support of Kiwanis International's efforts in 1997 to combat world-wide Iodine

Deficiency Disorders and in 2005 was sent in support of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Relief effort.

ENOS MARTIN, THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR RESEARCH AND HARD WORK THIS PAST YEAR!

Division 18 News

The Division 18 Council Meeting was held on February 20. **Lt Governor Young Chang** was elected to a second term. He is looking forward to working with the clubs again this year and with incoming Governor Phil Weber, who recruited him to do the job this year.

Andrea Search, Outreach director at Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, will be speaking at the **Emmaus Interclub Meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, April 11** at Perkins/Lehigh Street- 6:15 PM. Andrea will be reviewing Turning Point programs and services for children and victims of abuse and effects of the family unit.

- Chas Chase

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Saturday, March 10 from 5-8 PM – THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA! To be held at the Muhlenberg College Seegers Union Building.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, March 28, 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



March Birthday



23 – Young Chang



- **Tom Harp, Editor**