



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

May 1, 2018

April Lunch Meeting

On April 12, we held our first monthly club meeting at the **Shanty on 19th Street**. It was a big success! Not only did we have an excellent turnout, but we were pleased with the meal and accommodations. We had 13 members in attendance, as well as new member prospect **Deanna Schneirs** and speaker **Nadia Thalassinos**. Our first order of business was the election of officers and Board of Directors for the 2018-19 administrative year. The following members were elected by unanimous vote:

- President – Todd Siegfried
- Vice-President – Tracy Davis
- Treasurer – Enos Martin
- Secretary – Peg Harp
- Board of Directors, One-Year Term – Young Chang, Alison Norton
- Board of Directors, Two-Year Term – Debra Lamb
- Board of Directors, Three-Year Term – Bob Ashcraft, Vic Mazziotti

Congratulations to these members, and **thank you** for volunteering to serve in these leadership positions for our club!

After an excellent lunch, **Tracy Davis** introduced Nadia Thalassinos, Founder and CEO of the Spanish Immersion Learning Center. This is a new program, with offices located at 3900 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 206, Allentown. It is designed to introduce the Spanish language to pre-school children, as well as adults and corporations. The program for younger children immerses them in Spanish language for full days as they develop other critical learning skills. Adults and corporate representatives can learn Spanish for their own self-development, as well as to learn skills that will benefit a business's ability to communicate with an emerging customer base. Information about

the program, as well as how to register, is available at their website, www.languageprojectllc.com.

Mother's Day Service Project



On **Thursday, May 10** our club will be visiting two Lehigh Valley Children's Centers locations to help the children prepare flower pots and greeting cards for Mother's Day. **Bob Ashcraft** is leading this effort. **Enos and Susan Martin** will be visiting the Walnut Street Center in the morning, and Bob will be going to the Early Learning Center at 6th and Chew Streets in the afternoon. They will have small flower pots, soil and seedlings for the children to assemble. They will then create their own Mother's Day cards to give to their moms that weekend. If you would like to help out, contact Bob at 484-241-7380 or rashcraft@accumepartners.com.

LVCC Picnic!



Our club's "Signature Community Service Project" every year is the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Picnic. This will be our **10th Annual LVCC Picnic**, to be held on **Thursday, May 17** at the Rose Garden Pavilions on Honochick Drive in Allentown. We expect 235 pre-school children to attend, from four LVCC centers – Walnut Street, South Mountain, Union Boulevard, and the Early Learning Center. **Keith and Jessica Reynolds** are once again sponsoring the event, and have recruited over 50 Key Club volunteers from Allentown Central Catholic, Parkland, Emmaus, and Salisbury High Schools. In addition, we have 10 volunteers from our club, and there will be dozens of LVCC staff escorting the children. Volunteers helping out with setup should be at the park no later than 8 AM. The children will arrive between 10 – 10:30 AM. They will immediately be assigned to one of six activity stations, including soccer, an obstacle course, bubble-making, a parachute game, arts & crafts, and new this year- a magic show! Every 12 minutes, a horn will blow, and the kids will rotate to the next station. Keith and his son will be marshals for the event. We have requested a couple of soccer players from Bethlehem Steel FC to attend and demonstrate basic soccer skills for the children. We have also requested an IronPigs mascot, and the Just Born Peep may be

joining us! After activities are over, the children will be treated to a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, veggies, cookies, and drinks. Our “Iron Chefs” **Rich Peterson** and **Todd Siegfried** will man the grill again this year. Key Clubbers will help pass out the food. The children will be leaving no later than 1:00 PM to return to their centers for a well-deserved nap. Our volunteers will then help out with cleanup of the site.

We would like to thank all of our members who volunteered to assist with this amazing event. You will have a great time! We have been blessed with sunny weather for many years, and hope that trend will continue. Members who volunteered, wear your Allentown Kiwanis Club polo shirts! See you on the 17th.

Service Leadership Programs Report



Not much to report this month, since most schools limited their club activities during April for PSAT test preparation. However, we expect the K-Kids and Builders Club to begin meetings again in May. On May 3, the Washington Elementary School K-Kids will be assisting with the Personalized Books for Children project (see below). With the academic year winding down, we will be scheduling pizza parties for the K-Kids and Builders Club members to celebrate their achievements this past year.

Personalized Books Schedule



The FINAL distribution of Personalized Books for Children this academic year in the Allentown School District will be held on **Thursday, May 3** at the Washington Elementary School, 837 N. Ninth Street, Allentown. 85 first-grade students will be receiving their own personalized storybooks that day. The Washington K-Kids Club will once again help hand out the books, and read them in small groups with the younger children. **Tom Harp** will be joining **Terry Kennedy** at this final event. If anyone else is interested in joining us, please report to the school office no later than 9:15 AM that day.

We would like to recognize **Terry Kennedy** for his hard work and devotion over 28 years as President of the Personalized Books Given to Children program. Terry is “retiring” from the program and alas, it appears it will not continue in his absence. Our club and Foundation has been a proud sponsor of Personalized Books for over nearly 20 years. It is sad to see it go. But Terry deserves all the credit for creating this wonderful reading program, and for his persistence over the years in expanding it to this past year serving 3,104 first-grade students in the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton School Districts. You are a great man, Terry! THANK YOU for your service to our community.



Terry Kennedy & Student

"Bundles for Babies"

We are launching a new, year-round Service Project initially titled "Bundles for Babies." It is a collaboration between our club, the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club, the Nurse-Family Partnership of the Lehigh Valley, and Atria Senior Living in Bethlehem. **Peg Harp** is coordinating the program, which involves knitting blankets and other knit goods for newborn babies and their moms. Any member who knits, or who would like to learn, can join Peg in this wonderful endeavor. The "kickoff" of the program will be held on **Wednesday, June 6 at 3:00 PM** at Atria, when representatives of the Nurse-Family Partnership will conduct a presentation about the program for the residents. Those who are interested in joining this effort will meet monthly with Kiwanians to knit, turn in finished goods, and to get feedback about the babies who will benefit from this program. If you are interested in participating, contact Peg at 610-428-9878 or pegharp@live.com.

This Month in Our Club's History

The month's historical feature is a short biographical sketch on our first club president. The early years of our club included many significant businessmen from downtown Allentown.



Our First Club President

Harvey E. Bohner, of the furniture firm of Helfrich & Bohner, was born in Harrisburg, PA. on January 10, 1871. He came to Bethlehem as a child when his father, the Reverend Benjamin Bohner accepted a pastorate in Bethlehem. After graduating from Bethlehem public schools in 1888, he entered the American Business College in Allentown and graduated in 1890. He was employed at the

F. Hersch Hardware Company as a bookkeeper for several years, after which he became head bookkeeper for the C.A. Dorney Furniture Company. In 1801 he joined M.A. Helfrich in the manufacture and sale of furniture at 734 Hamilton Street, where, under the name of Helfrich & Bohner, the firm conducted a large retail trade. Early in 1916, he purchased his partner's interest and continued in the business alone, still under the original firm's name. Mr. Bohner was actively interested in the civic, social and religious life of the community and was a leader in the Chamber of Commerce. Through his forceful and dynamic energy and force of character as chairman of the campaign committee, this civic body was materially strengthened and reorganized during 1916. He was president of the board of trustees of Salem Evangelical Church; trustee of the Public Library; and treasurer of the Associated Charities.

When the effort to organize the Kiwanis Club took place, he decided to join it as a charter member (#4) and was elected its first president on March 28, 1918. This was his only office during his 12 ½ years as a Kiwanian. In 1923, he sold his business and briefly retired.

Upon his retirement, Bohner sold the Helfrich & Bohner furniture business merged with the Penn House Furnishing Company located at 943-945 Hamilton Street. Helfrich & Bohner had been located at 734 Hamilton Street, which was closed when the two firms merged. Penn House Furnishings liquidated its inventory and went out of business in August 1928 due to the illness of one of the owners. However, retirement was short-lived as he became the local manager of the Fidelity Investment Company, a position he held until his untimely death. He died October 13, 1930, from a virulent form of influenza at the age of 59.

- *Enos Martin*

Division 18 News

Pancake Breakfast – Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club SATURDAY, MAY 12 at Applebee's on Catasauqua Road, Bethlehem from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Tickets are \$7.00 with youth under 12 at \$5.00. See a member or tickets at the door.

45th Annual Pancake Festival – Emmaus Kiwanis Club, SUNDAY, JUNE 3 from 8:00 AM to Noon at Fire Co. #1, 6th & Broad Streets, Emmaus. Tickets at the door.

Kiwanis Division 18 Family: "Very recently, my wife, Maryann, was told by her oncologist that she is in complete remission. It seems a lifetime ago, rather than 10 months, that she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We deeply appreciate all of the prayers, cards, words of care and concern, and support, we have received from our extended Kiwanis family. Our thanks and gratitude." Thanks, Phil Weber

Please Welcome the Following New Kiwanis Member: Congratulations to Emmaus and Governor Elect Phil Weber for inviting Tom Shickel of Macungie to join the club. Tom works for Bosch-Rexroth at the airport, is married with 2 children. He is keeping Kiwanis in his family as his dad is a member of the Bald Eagle – Nittany Valley Club in Region 4, Division 12N. WELCOME!

- *Chas Chase*

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT - Thursday, May 10 – Mother's Day Service Project at the Walnut Street and Early Learning Center LVCC sites. Contact Bob Ashcraft for times and details.

SERVICE PROJECT - Thursday, May 17 – 10th Annual LVCC Picnic, Rose Garden Pavilions, Honochick Drive, Allentown. Setup at 8 AM, children arrive between 10-10:30 AM with picnic lunch after games and activities.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, May 10, 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th – Speaker from Civic Theatre. Invocation by Terry Kennedy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, May 30, 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



May Birthdays



NONE!



- *Tom Harp, Editor*