



**“Building our community one child at a time”**

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## **The Downtowner**

***Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown***

**March 1, 2020**

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### **February 13 Meeting**



**Jean Raymond-Hoffman**

The speaker at our February 13 lunch meeting was **Jean Raymond-Hoffman**, Case Manager for Allentown YouthBuild. She started out by sharing her own life history, which mirrors many of the youth that she serves. She was raised in Indiana by an abusive family. She eventually moved to Allentown where she attended Dieruff HS. She had a rough time in school, but was inspired by a teacher there who became her mentor. She went on to college and began a 35 year career at Lehigh Valley Hospital Network in various positions. She was also a career manager at Penn State- Lehigh Valley campus, and was a youth worker at LV CareerLink. YouthBuild is an international organization active in 45 states and several countries. It is a program for 17-24 year old HS drop-outs, helping them to earn a GED and skills training through rehabilitating blighted buildings. The parent agency for Allentown YouthBuild is the Housing Association and Development Corporation (HADC). They acquire blighted properties, rehabilitate them and sell the homes to low-income families. Jean described the kids she works with as being “castaways or throwaways.” They need direction and mentorship. Congresswoman

Susan Wild learned about the good work they were doing, and invited Jean and 7 of the students to Washington, DC for a visit to her office and tour of the Capital. YouthBuild is a registered non-profit organization that receives no federal funding. They rely on private and state funding. Allentown YouthBuild assists between 12-14 young adults per year to obtain their GED's. Each year, Pennsylvania YouthBuild hosts a conference in Harrisburg for nearly 400 youngsters.

We welcomed 12 guests for this luncheon, including **Todd Siegfried** who has been recovering from surgery since December. **Enos Martin** provided information about the Raub Middle School video entry for the annual "What's So Cool About Manufacturing" contest, and encouraged members to go on-line to vote for Raub. Several members donated items for Raub students, one of our service projects for the month of February.

## National Pancake Day



Allen HS Key Club Volunteers

On February 25, several of our members, and three volunteers from the Allen HS Key Club greeted customers at the annual "National Pancake Day" fundraiser at the IHOP on Lehigh Street, Allentown. We asked customers for donations to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Early Bird **Serena Ranney** kicked things off at 7:00 AM, followed by **Eleana Belletieri, Terry Kennedy, Young Chang, Joyce Crosby, Tom Harp** and our Key Club volunteers. Although the crowd was lighter than previous years, we were able to help raise lots of money for a great cause. Thanks to all who volunteered!

## Service Leadership Programs



Our **Key Clubs** at **William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury** and **Southern Lehigh High Schools** continue to be very active in fundraising and service projects for their school and community. As noted above, The Allen HS Key Club helped out with the National Pancake Day event. And all of the Key Clubs plan to send volunteers to help with the annual LVCC Picnic on May 14. Our Foundation has offered to sponsor at least one Key Club member from each school to attend the Key Leader Conference April 24-26. This is a wonderful leadership training opportunity for Key Club members.

The **Raub Middle School Builders Club** has finally elected officers for the year, and continue plans to weave plastic bags into mats for the homeless. They also presented a nice gift to the school librarian, who was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The **South Mountain Builders Club** continues to restore its membership and to come up with service opportunities. The **Southern Lehigh Builders Club** has an impressive number of service projects they are working on.

The **Washington K-Kids Club** have elected officers and are planning three school projects. The **Ramos K-Kids Club** has produced an anti-bullying video that will be shown at an upcoming school assembly. Once again this year they are helping to promote "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They may also start a pretzel sale with proceeds benefitting the animal shelter. The **Union Terrace K-Kids Club** continues to organize and plan.

## **Allentown Kiwanis History Book**

We have sold over 30 copies of our new book "The Kiwanis Club of Allentown – A Century of Fellowship and Service and Its Impact on Allentown", authored by **Enos Martin**. But we have a long way to go! We are reaching out to former members of the club to notify them of the book's availability. Enos will be attending the Pa. State Kiwanis Mid-Year Conference in State College on March 21, and will have a table and display there to sell the books. If you have not as yet purchased the book, it will be available at future club meetings for \$20, or you can order one online at our website, [www.allentownkiwanis.org](http://www.allentownkiwanis.org) for \$25, which includes shipping and handling costs. Proceeds from the book's sale benefit our Foundation.

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### ***100 Years Ago – March 1920***

The Club's first secretary, Albert R. Saurman, resigned his position after serving for the first two years of the Club's existence. Reverend Simon Sipple assumed the position and would serve as secretary for the next 10 years. Rev. Sipple was charter member #54 and remained a member until his passing in 1956. He served as the full time pastor for 36 years at the Zion Evangelical Reformed Church on Hamilton Street, also known as the Liberty Bell Church.

### ***75 Years Ago – March 1945***

On March 22, the Kiwanis meeting was broadcast live on radio station WSAN from the Americus Hotel. The occasion was a Red Cross Quiz Program. It celebrated the completion of a very successful Red Cross War Fund campaign. Questions included one on which cemetery serves as the resting place for over 500 unknown soldiers of the Revolutionary War (located on the west bank of the Monocacy Creek in Bethlehem) and another on the number of statues of soldiers and sailors on the monument on Center Square (six).

### ***50 Years Ago – March 1970***

At the March 19 meeting, Key Club members auctioned off their services to Kiwanis Club members to earn money for attendance at the District Key Club Convention. Key Club

members performed services such as gardening, car washing, window washing, and painting.

### **25 Years Ago – March 1995**

Current US Senator Pat Toomey was the guest speaker at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Livingston Club. In those days, he was a member of the Allentown Charter Study Commission which was reviewing the update of the Home Rule Charter. The Home Rule Charter established the strong mayor and seven member city council form of government for Allentown. He was also owner of the Rockin' Robins night club.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**SERVICE PROJECT – To be announced!**

**MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, March 12, 6 PM (5-6 PM Social Hour) at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be Mary Lou Scarf, Project Child. Invocation by Enos Martin.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, March 25, 5 PM at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>.**



### **March Birthdays**



**23 – Young Chang**

**29 – Susan Martin**



**-Tom Harp, Editor**