



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

July 1, 2020

June 11 Meeting

On Thursday, June 11, eight members and four guests participated in our second monthly Zoom meeting. We started the meeting by recognizing **Emma Luchetti**, recipient of this year’s \$1,000 Key Club Scholarship from Allentown Central Catholic High School. Emma’s proud parents joined us as well. Emma was a fine student and leader at her school. She was Class President as well as President of the Key Club her senior year. She was a four-year varsity swim team member, the boy’s lacrosse team manager, was a four-year member of the school’s Red Cross and “Best Friends Forever” clubs, tutored in Chemistry and Algebra II, and much more. Emma will be attending Holy Cross College in the fall, with plans to transfer to the University of Notre Dame next year. She will be studying Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS). **President Tom Harp** mentioned that Emma’s sister Olivia was the Key Club Scholarship recipient from ACCHS in 2018, and is doing very well at Notre Dame. We congratulated Emma and gave her a “virtual” round of applause.

Tom then introduced our guest speaker, **Tom Shortell**, reporter at The Morning Call. In addition to reporting on a variety of local stories, Tom writes a weekly column, the “Road Warrior.” He started out by making an observation, that in these challenging times of “tribalism”, there is one thing that we all have in common – the need for transportation. It affects every aspect of our lives. We have seen the rise of warehouses in our region. They have had a huge impact on our local roads and bridges. The pandemic has had its affect on drivers in several ways. Some people have short tempers on the road because of “cabin fever.” Others have been speeding more because of empty roads. It seems as though drivers are less irritated with truckers though. Maybe because they appreciate the essential services they provide during the pandemic. Tom reported that traffic in general was cut in half during the COVID-19 shutdown. More people have been working from home. If this trend continues beyond the pandemic, it could negatively affect downtown

businesses if workers no longer commute to offices in the cities. Tom opened it up to questions. **Susan Martin** asked about the status of the Upper Saucon Township bridge on Blue Church Road. That has caused traffic congestion and backups along the road. Tom was very aware of that construction and mentioned that the federal government is running out of money to assist funding of road and bridge projects. There was extensive discussion about the status of the Pa. Turnpike. It is in deep financial trouble. The Turnpike Commission just terminated the balance of toll-takers, around 400 employees. Their system will be 100% EZ Pass. Even so, the cost of traveling the turnpike, especially from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh has become prohibitive. As a result, truckers are using local roads to travel cross-state, adding a burden to that infrastructure. **Tom Harp** asked about speeding wires that are seen stretched across local roads. Tom noted that Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that prohibits local police from using radar guns to catch speeders. They must use speed wires, or in some cases just paint lines on the road several feet apart and use stopwatches to calculate a vehicle's speed. These lines must be "certified" with an exact distance in order to stand up in court. Other wires we may see stretched across roads may be there to measure a count of vehicles traveling on the roads. Those wires are likely installed by the local planning commission or zoning officers.

Tom reported that speeding has been a problem during the pandemic. In fact, it has been measured that vehicles are averaging 15-30 mph faster now than in February. **Deb Lamb**, who like Tom grew up in New Jersey, mentioned that she could not understand why Pennsylvania drivers merged into traffic differently than in NJ. Tom went on to state that drivers on highways clearly have the right of way, and that people who merge from on-ramps must yield. Tom also brought up the need for "zipper merges" in construction zones. When drivers begin to see signs on the road that two lanes will be merging into one, they should stay in their lane until the merger point. They will then move over in turn, like a zipper. This helps to reduce the length of the traffic line behind them. If a driver merges as soon as he/she sees a sign, other drivers will whiz by anyway creating the potential for an accident as well as road rage. Speaking of road rage, Tom believed that this phenomenon was not growing lately. It is important for drivers to keep their cool.

Tom spent over 45 minutes answering our questions. We greatly appreciated his time. This was a very important and informative presentation.

June Service Project

In May and June we encouraged members to donate items to needy families of Raub Middle School students. **Enos Martin** led the way with his own personal donations. We are also pleased to hear from **Deirdre Govan** that the Salvation Army contacted the coordinator at Raub and was able to donate a variety of items from their own food pantry, as well as things they had in excess like detergent and lotion. Thanks to the great folks at the Salvation Army!

July Service Project

We have met with Lehigh Valley Children's Centers staff at their South Mountain Center to plan a project beautifying the front of the building. There is a very old and rotted out raised flower bed that we plan to replace during the month of July. We have dimensions for two new beds and will fabricate pressure-treated wood for the frame, then fill it with

fresh planting soil. After that, we will donate flower seedlings for the pre-school children to plant. This will be a fun project for our members and the staff and children at LVCC South Mountain.

Eliminate Project



At its June 24 meeting, our Foundation Board of Trustees approved final payment in the amount of \$4,833 towards our pledge of \$15,000 to Kiwanis International's ELIMINATE Project. Back in January, 2015 our club pledged that amount to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) in developing countries around the world. Some of us remember KI's first Global Campaign for Children, begun in 1994 to fight Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD), the number one cause of mental and development disabilities in the world. This was a highly successful campaign that raised \$100 million to provide iodized salt to underdeveloped countries. In 2010, Kiwanis launched the Eliminate campaign. Millions of mothers and babies had died from contracting tetanus due to poverty and unsafe birthing practices. In partnership with UNICEF, the ELIMINATE Project has provided tetanus vaccines and education to over 27 underdeveloped countries. As a result, MNT has been eliminated in those countries. In 1989, 800,000 babies died every year from MNT. Because of this Kiwanis initiative, fewer than 31,000 died from MNT in 2018, a decrease of 96%! There is still much to be done. In 12 countries, MNT has not been eliminated. Our final donation to the ELIMINATE Project will help Kiwanis International finish this important mission. This effort is yet another reason to feel proud that we are members of Kiwanis, an international organization that is truly making a difference in the lives of children everywhere.

Update on RIF Grant



As was reported last month, our club was awarded a \$165 grant from Reading is Fundamental (RIF) to purchase books for middle-school kids involved with the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown. Our club matched the grant award, enabling us to order 110 books from the RIF on-line bookstore. Our contract with RIF has been approved, and we now have access to the bookstore. **Alison Norton** reports that the B&GC 6th Street Clubhouse will open on July 6, with several restrictions. Only 16 kids can occupy the facility at a time. There will be no basketball or contact sports. However, the indoor swimming pool will be open. That will be greatly appreciated since all city pools are closed this summer. The children and staff will be required to wash hands every 30 minutes. All meals will be "grab and go" with throwaway containers and utensils. Our committee to oversee the RIF grant will meet via Zoom in the next couple of weeks. We hope to be

able to select books for the young participants, and to plan a distribution event later in the summer.

Foundation College Scholarships

We were pleased to welcome **Emma Luchetti**, this year's Key Club college scholarship recipient from Allentown Central Catholic, and her parents to our June 11 Zoom meeting. The Salisbury HS Key Club member who also received a \$1,000 scholarship from our Foundation was **Madison Lash**. Madison was recommended by the Key Club faculty advisor, Katie Hutchinson. She was a member of the Key Club for three years, serving as President in her senior year. She was a Cheer Coach at the high school for four years, and a volunteer firefighter in her community for four years. Madison was very active in coordinating the Key Club's involvement with Special Olympics. She will be attending Lehigh Carbon Community College as a nursing student. Madison is very appreciative of receiving this scholarship award, but was unable to join us at the June 11 meeting because she was working, which was a good thing. Congratulations, Madison!

Honoring Judith Chase



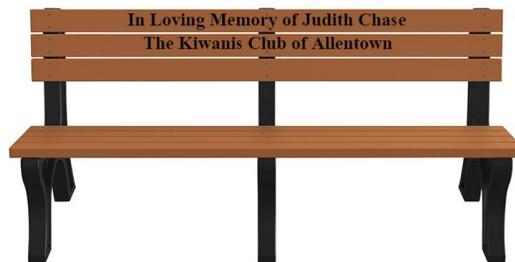
Judith "Judy" Chase joined the Kiwanis Club of Allentown in January, 1991. She remained a member until her passing on December 6, 2005 at the age of 73, a month short of her 15th anniversary as a Kiwanian. Although she did not serve as an officer in our club, she was an active member during her years of service in support of our club's many youth and children programs. She served as the chairperson of our club's Young Children Committee which would oversee our support of programs for young children.

I remembered Judy from meetings I first attended as a new member of the club in 1996. She was always very pleasant. Perhaps her greatest professional achievement was founding Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) in 1970. She also served as their first Executive Director until her retirement in 2003. Judy had a remarkable career in the field of early childhood education. She was the founder of the Easton Head Start Program in 1965 and a co-founder of the Pa. Child Care Association in 1972. She initiated Pennsylvania's first program in a school to provide care for the children of teen parents at William Allen High School in 1981, and Pennsylvania's first center based infant care in 1971.

Judy was also a member or served on the boards of numerous community organizations, including Safe Harbor, Valley Youth House, United Way, Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley, Project Child (founding member), Northampton County League of Women

Voters, Equilibrium, Lehigh County Council of Churches, Easton Area Public Library, Friends Association, Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley and A.A.U.W. Easton Chapter. She was a former member of Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Project of Easton, Safe Kids Coalition, Northampton Community College ECE Advisory Committee, Northampton County Vo-Techs CIT Advisory Board, Quest Initiative and **Kiwanis Club of Allentown**. She was the recipient of the Easton Y.W.C.A. Woman of the Year Award, LANAEYC Distinguished Member Award, TRACC Athena Award, Forks Sertoma Service to Mankind Award and Public Citizen of the Year from Lehigh Valley Division of the National Association of Social Workers. She was a Morning Call Notable Person of the Century and received the Spirit of Women Award sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital and Prevention Magazine. .

Our club would like to honor Judy with the donation of a commemorative park bench, to be installed in front of the LVCC South Mountain Center. Our Foundation has approved up to \$950 for that purpose. We encourage all members to make a donation to the Foundation to help cover the cost of this gift. You can do so on-line by clicking the "Donate to Our Foundation" button on the home page of our website, www.allentownkiwanis.org. Or, you can send a check made out to "Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown" and mail it to P.O. Box 91226, Allentown, Pa. 18109-1226. Any amount towards this gesture to honor Judy would be appreciated!



A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – July 1920

Since President Lawrence Rupp was in San Francisco attending the Democratic National Convention and Vice-President David Lewis David Lewis was attending the Kiwanis National Convention in Portland, Oregon, Past President Elwood Thomas presided over the July 1st meeting. Veterans of the Civil War were the honored guests of the Kiwanians at the Hotel Allen. A total of 20 Civil War veterans attended the luncheon to receive the recognition of their service between 1861 and 1865.

75 Years Ago – July 1945

On July 12, the Allentown Kiwanis and the Allentown Lions Club's baseball teams clashed on the baseball diamond at L. W. Hunsicker's Grove in Alburdis. With the score tied 9-9 going into the 9th inning, the Lions scored 9 runs in the top of the 9th inning and retired the Kiwanians in order in the bottom of the inning to win the game. Over 100 Kiwanians

enjoyed a chicken dinner served by the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's church in Trexlertown.

50 Years Ago – July 1970

The Kiwanis Club heard about the plans to build the new Schaefer Brewery in Fogelsville with Phase 1 to be completed by March, 1972. The brewery would be capable of producing approximately 850,000 barrels of beer annually after completion of Phase 1 and twice that amount when the facility was completed in 1974. Later in the month, the airport authority laid out its plans for the expansion of ABE airport by 1972. Insurance agent Clayton O.F Werley, a 40 year member of the club died on July 5.

25 Years Ago – July 1995

Our Club's Foundation donated \$1,000 toward the construction of three additional soccer fields at a Lehigh County park off Cedarbrook Road. Three fields had been built in 1994 and this doubled the size of the complex by adding one regulation size field and two youth fields.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Replacement of raised flower beds in front of the LVCC South Mountain Center. Date and time TBA.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, July 9, 7:00 PM, Zoom Meeting. Speakers will be Jaclyn Hudak, Community School Coordinator and Israel Vasquez, After School Coordinator at the Raub Middle School.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, July 29, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.



July Birthdays



15 – Peg Harp

23 – Jeff Burnatowski



- Tom Harp, Editor