



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

April 1, 2022

March 10 Meeting



AJ, Qbah and Tom

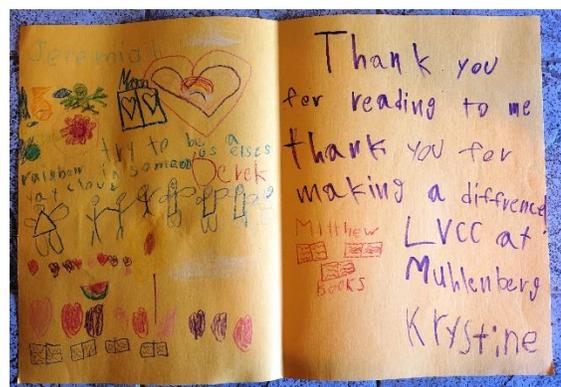
NO FOOLIN'! Our dinner meeting on March 10 was a special one. Our guest speakers were **Mario “Qbah” Fernandez** and **AJ Suero** of the Hispanic Business Council. Both serve on its Board of Directors, and Mario is Vice-Chair. HBC is a diversity council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. They provide advocacy for community development issues such as health care, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. They operate a mentorship program for Hispanic business owners. Mario is owner-operator of AtreQ Entertainment. His ethnicity is Cuban and Puerto Rican. AJ works for LV Public Media, which includes PBS-39 and WLVR 91.3, our local NPR station. His background is Dominican. They both spoke about wide diversity in the Hispanic culture. The HBC meets once a month to address issues of importance to the Hispanic community. They host networking events, a Latino Business Expo, and this year will welcome a statewide Latino Conference to Allentown. AJ understands very well the value of volunteerism. Volunteers can offer “3 T’s” – their Time, Talent or Treasure. AJ shared stories about his work in.

public TV and radio. We shared with both Mario and AJ our work with children in the Allentown School District, a majority of whom are Hispanic. We agreed to make an effort to attend each others special events and functions in the months ahead. Our goal is to build a positive relationship with the Hispanic community in Allentown, and to eventually welcome a new member from that community!

Read Across Pennsylvania



On March 15, **Joyce Crosby, Terry Kennedy, Susan and Enos Martin and Tom Harp** visited the LVCC after-school program at Muhlenberg Elementary School for a “Read Across Pennsylvania” event. Nineteen children are enrolled in that program, but only fourteen were present for the reading session. The children were divided into three reading level groups – grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. The Martins met with the youngest children, Joyce and Tom with the middle grades and Terry with the older kids. The children were delightful! They were very happy not to have to wear face masks any more. We enjoyed seeing their faces and bright smiles. The youngest children read a familiar book, “Jabar Jumps.” The 2-3 grade kids read “The Girl Who Thought in Pictures.” And the oldest children received the book “The Locker Ate Lucy.” The books were curated and purchased through Scholastic Books. Personally, I was very impressed with how well the children read in my group. They really got into the story as the group read together. I received similar viewpoints from our other volunteers. The children were very well-behaved and appreciated our visit. We will definitely have to schedule another of these visits in the future! At the end of our session, we were presented with several clever “Thank You” cards that we will display at our next club meeting.



Meet and Greet!



We are in the final stages of hosting our first **“Meet and Greet”** event in several years, to promote our club and to add new members. It will be held on **Thursday, April 14** from **5-7 PM** at **Theatre 514**, which is across the street from the Civic Theatre on 19th Street. We have e-mailed invitations to members of the Allentown Chamber of Commerce, the West End Alliance, and to elected officials in the city and county. We encourage our own members to invite coworkers, friends and family to the event. Registration should be made on-line at our website, www.allentownkiwanis.org. We will have **Sleepy Cat Urban Winery** wines to enjoy, as well as hot hors d'oeuvres from the **Shanty on 19th**. Feel free to stop by and share your positive experiences as a member of our Kiwanis Club.

April Service Project

Kiwanis is a **SERVICE** club. As such, our club tries to offer at least one community service opportunity a month. We have received a request from the Sixth Street Shelter in Allentown to help out with a “Spring Cleaning” project at their playground. It involves gathering leaves and litter, cleaning playground equipment, spreading mulch and possibly the placement of two dinosaur playground sculptures that will be purchased using grant funds from our Foundation. We will meet at the facility, located at 219 N. 6th Street, at **10 AM** on **Saturday, April 23**. We could use a few volunteers from our club as well as possibly Key Clubs from Allen and Allentown Central Catholic Key Clubs. Consider joining us as we help beautify a playground enjoyed by children at the shelter!

LVCC Picnic



After a two-year absence due to the COVID pandemic, we are preparing for our **12th Annual LVCC Picnic**, to be held on **Thursday, May 12** at the Rose Garden Pavilions on Honochick Drive in Allentown. Once again, **Keith** and **Jessica Reynolds** have generously agreed to plan and sponsor the event. At this year's picnic, we will host over 160 pre-school children from three LVCC locations in Allentown – the South Mountain, Walnut Street and ELC Centers. Regrettably, due to transportation issues children from

the Union Boulevard Center are unable to attend. Hopefully, next year! We expect that over 50 Key Club volunteers from the William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury, Southern Lehigh, Emmaus and Parkland High Schools will help out. And we already have several members of our Kiwanis Club who have volunteered for set-up, lunch preparation and cleanup afterwards. We could use more! So sign up if you have not already done so. We will be setting up as early as 8:00 AM. The children will arrive between 10-10:30 AM and activities will be from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, followed by a picnic lunch. There will be seven activity stations that the children will rotate to, including an obstacle course, parachute game, bubble-making station, musical activity, science experiments and arts and crafts. Following activities we will be serving the children a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks, box drinks and cookies. We have invited all of the school mascots to join us, as well as the Just Born Peep, and MeLVin from the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. Once again this years we have reserved all three pavilions for the event. We have looked forward to resuming this wonderful event for the past two years!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – April 1922

At the April 6 meeting, the Kiwanis Club welcomed and honored the 1922 championship Allentown High School basketball team led by Coach John Weimer and included team members captain Harold Helfrich, Andrew Leh, LeRoy Brown, Paul Clymer, Kenneth Weston, Steward Borger, Noland Osmun, John Christ, Clarence Ziegler, Allen Butz, and Clifford Bartholomew. The team won 16 of 20 games. Allentown and Catasauqua were tied at the top of the Lehigh Valley Interscholastic Basketball League. Allentown won a one game playoff with Catasauqua 24-17 to win the league title.

Allentown High School representative, A. C. Lewis, also provided information on the school. The high school was initially designed and built to house 1,200 students. In 1922, the building accommodated about 1,800 students and student population was expected to total over 2,000 with approximately 1,000 in the freshman class.

75 Years Ago – April 1947

The April 10th meeting featured three science teachers and twelve ninth grade students from Central Junior High School. The teachers and students presented a scientific exposition of an imaginary trip to Mars in a rocket ship. A stage was prepared with models of the Earth, Moon, and Mars and a representation of the rocket ship. Sights observed by the crew of the ship were projected on a screen. The students described the imaginary trip and narrated expected adventures on the trip.

50 Years Ago – April 1972

At the April 4th meeting, the Lehigh Medical Society presented its 1972 Benjamin Rush Award to the Club for its community service in the area of health and welfare. Sam Saxton, club president, accepted the award on behalf of the club.

Dr. Joseph Hummel, past club president in 1936 and a 40-year Kiwanian, died at the age of 75 on April 13. He had practiced dentistry for 37 years in Allentown when he retired in 1958.

25 Years Ago – April 1997

On April 26th, club members Karen Nichols and Mike Milligan escorted eight children from Lehigh Valley Child Care to the Smart Museum where the children constructed their own water purification system. The children were also treated to a laser light show. (Note: Does anyone know where the smart museum was? I could not find anything about the “Smart Museum” in Allentown.)

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SOCIAL ACTIVITY – Thursday, April 14, from 5-7 PM – “Meet & Greet” at the Civic’s Theatre 514 in Allentown.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, April 21, 6:00 PM (5-6 PM Social Hour). Speaker will be Dr. John Stanford, Superintendent of the Allentown School District. This will be an Interclub Meeting as well!

SERVICE PROJECT – Saturday, April 23, 10 AM – Sixth Street Shelter Playground Cleanup (Rain Date April 30, same time).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, April 27, 5 PM on Zoom.



April Birthdays



NONE!

April Membership Anniversaries

Deirdre Govan – 5 Years

Mark Hanichak – 1 Year



-Tom Harp, Editor