



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

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## **The Downtowner**

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

**December 1, 2022**

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### **November 10 Meeting**

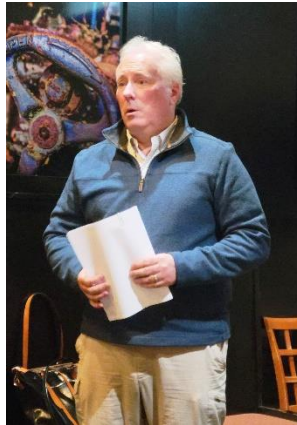
We welcomed 11 members and guests to our November 10 meeting at the Shanty. **Deb Lamb** was Program Chair and led off by providing an excellent invocation. We then inducted our newest member, **Gina Stano**! Gina is Director of Community Outreach and Development for Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers (LVCC) and will be their corporate membership representative, replacing **Leigh Miller**. Gina is a graduate of Moravian University and currently lives in Whitehall. **President Tom Harp** welcomed Gina to our Allentown Kiwanis family by presenting her with a Membership Certificate, Kiwanis pin, and a copy of our club history book. Welcome, Gina!



**Gina and Tom**

Bob Moran, Pa. Kiwanis Division 17/18 Lt. Governor made his first official visit to our club and offered some remarks, including his goals and priorities for the year. Foremost was

his desire to improve communications between clubs in the division. He will also be selecting a “Kiwanian of the Month” for our division.



**Bob Moran**

Following dinner, Deb Lamb introduced the speaker, **Lin Erickson**, CEO of the DaVinci Science Center. Lin is a graduate of Smith College and Lehigh University with 25 years of experience in the non-profit world. She served as Executive Director of the DaVinci Center from 1997-2005, returning as its CEO in 2013. The Center currently serves 150,000 people a year, 100,000 in their building and the rest “off campus” in schools and youth centers. Under their “Museums for All” initiative they provide reduced daily admission passes of \$3.00, or an annual membership cost of \$30.00, for families in need. They have developed outreach programs in the Hispanic communities with bilingual staff. They emphasize STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and WISE (Women in Science) programs. They have started a Career Ladder Program for students beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Their new exhibit, “Body Works Rx” opens on December 26, offering guests an opportunity to learn more about healthy living.



**Lin Erickson**



**Artist Rendition of New Center**

The new “DaVinci Science Center at the PPL Pavilion” is now under construction! The main entrance will be on Hamilton Street in downtown Allentown. The facility will be twice the size of the current Center and have three times the exhibit space. Alvin Butz is the construction manager. The cost of construction will be around \$72 million. It is scheduled to open in Spring, 2024. Exhibits will include a Lehigh River Watershed with live river otters, a 40’ waterfall and 3 ponds! There will be a Curiosity Hall with projections up to 50 feet high. LVHN is sponsoring a “Immersive Body” on three levels, where children can

journey through and learn about the intestines, digestive system, heart and brain. ATAS is sponsoring a “Science in the Making” exhibit where students will learn about how science is utilized in the manufacturing industry. There will be a new hydraulic dinosaur to amaze the children. And there are plans for a “Fab Lab”, a production studio and classrooms. A preschool area will be available for visiting parents.

Lin anticipates that there will be over 400,000 visitors a year at the new Center. It will be open 7 days a week. She anticipates that they will be hiring 60 new employees for the facility, which will include a gift shop and café. The new DaVinci Center is expected to boost the local economy. 50,000 people are within walking distance of the new building. And 42% are living below the poverty level. The Center will provide learning opportunities for thousands of disadvantaged children in downtown Allentown, the Lehigh Valley and beyond. It will stimulate interest in science and technology. And it will provide a pathway for young people to explore emerging careers. There is no doubt that our city will benefit in many ways by hosting this wonderful new science center!

## Holiday Hope Chests



Tomorrow, President Tom will be delivering 22 Holiday Hope Chests (see above) to the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's collection site. We are very pleased to have exceeded last year's total of 18 donated gift boxes. Needy children around our area will enjoy opening wrapped shoe boxes full of toys, school supplies, clothing, and other fun items. We would like to recognize **Kathryn Best, Joyce Crosby, Belinda Gray, Deirdre Govan, Tom and Peggy Harp, Terry Kennedy, Jennifer Kramm, Deb Lamb, Diane Lariar, Enos and Susan Martin and Todd Siegfried** for donating this year's Hope Chests. Thank you for sharing your holiday spirit with these deserving children!

## Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon

It has been a holiday tradition for the Kiwanis Club of Allentown to host an annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon. This year it will be held on **Thursday, December 8** from **12:00 PM to 1:30 PM** at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the hot lunch buffet is \$20, to be paid at the door. At the event, the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown will be presenting grant awards totaling \$10,250 to 11 non-profit organizations that serve children in our community. We have invited other Kiwanis Clubs in our division to join us. We expect up to 40 guests at the luncheon. Once again, we will be entertained by the Allen HS Chorale. And we will be recognizing one of our members with a Kiwanis “Distinguished Service Award.” Please plan to join us!

## LVCC Annual Christmas Party!



**HO-HO-HO!** Our club is looking forward to hosting its **16th Annual LVCC Christmas Party** on **Friday, December 16**. We expect over 190 pre-school children will attend, from LVCC's Early Learning Center (ELC), South Mountain and Walnut Street centers. This year's party will be held at ELC in Alliance Hall, Allentown. That facility is located at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Chew Streets. Volunteers should arrive at the facility no later than 9:15 AM. An e-mail will be sent out to our membership seeking volunteers and providing additional details. Nine members of the Allen HS Key Club and their faculty advisors will be helping out. We will be preparing a special chicken nuggets lunch for the children. The ELC facility has a spacious industrial kitchen, as well as an elevator to efficiently shuttle the food from floor to floor. All activities will take place in a large, full-court gym in the center of the building. There will be 6 activity stations, including arts & crafts, a sing-along area, and a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" led by our own **Terry Kennedy**. Each child will receive two toys courtesy of "Toys for Tots." And they will enjoy a personal visit and photo with **SANTA** as well! This is one of our club's Signature Service Projects. Consider volunteering! It is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season.

## Service Leadership Programs

**Enos Martin** reports that the Raub Middle School Builders Club helped decorate the school gym for a dance in early November. They also took tickets at the dance and helped out at the snack stand. The club currently has around 12 members. They elected officers at the November 9th meeting. They will be doing Christmas wreaths and cards for ten residents of the Phoebe Home. They will work on them next Wednesday and deliver them on December 14. The students will be allowed into the Home to distribute the items.



**Raub Builders Club Decorating!**

The Principal of the Washington Elementary School was unable to recruit a faculty member to serve as advisor for the K-Kids Club there. However, we will not give up in trying to find a way to re-activate that club. **Vic Mazziotti** reports that the faculty advisor for the Ramos K-Kids Club is ready to schedule their first meeting, before the Christmas holiday.

Salisbury HS faculty advisor **Barry Frick** reports that their Key Club will be donating 76 Holiday Hope Chests this year! That is truly amazing. They are also selling Dan Schantz Monthly Madness flower cards as a fundraiser. The Allen HS Key Club will once again be volunteering for this year's LVCC Christmas Party on December 16. Faculty advisor **Mary DiFebo** has recruited 9 members of the club to help out that day.

## A Glance Into Our Past

### ***100 Years Ago – December 1922***

The Kiwanis Club, along with the Elks, Four Square Club and other local organizations, helped numerous needy families in Allentown. The Kiwanis Club adopted 25 needy families and distributed over \$300 (\$5,600 in today's dollars) to these families to help them with their basic needs. In today's dollars, each family received approximately \$225.

### ***75 Years Ago – December 1947***

At the Earle Theater, which was located at 20 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, the Kiwanis club hosted approximately 800 children, from 152 families receiving public assistance, at the club's annual Christmas party (See picture from the Morning Call). The group included 100 children for the Crippled Children's Society. Each child received a box containing fruit, candy and nuts. Each child received gifts including toys and games. In addition, the club sent 12 desk lamps, 3 dozen undershirts, and new shoes for 47 children at Wiley House. Fifty children at the Good Shepherd Home received boxes of assorted gifts and toys. The value of all the gifts distributed was approximately \$2,000 (equal to over \$35,000 in today's dollars). Some items were purchased by the Club and others donated.



### **50 Years Ago – December 1972**

The Club participated in the “Share Your Treats” program, with members spending 60 hours of volunteer time. Over 2,000 pounds of candy was collected at 30 elementary schools. The candy was distributed to residents at the Coopersburg Sacred Heart Home, Good Shepherd Home, Salvation Army, and low-income housing areas.

### **25 Years Ago – December 1997**

The Club sponsored an “Adopt a Child” project conceived by member Karen Nichols. The children visited the Kemmerer Museum in Bethlehem for a special holiday program. Each child was sponsored by a Kiwanian and received a wrapped toy and candy.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**SERVICE PROJECT – December 16- Annual LVCC Christmas Party, Early Learning Center, Alliance Hall. Volunteers meet at 9:15 AM.**

**MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, December 8, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon, Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, December 29, 5 PM on Zoom.**



### **December Birthdays**



**25 – Deirdre Govan**

**29- Joyce Crosby**

**31 – Enos Martin**



- **Tom Harp, Editor**