



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

June 1, 2023

LVCC Picnic



There was no dinner meeting last month. Instead, on May 11, our club enjoyed hosting over 200 pre-school children at the **13th Annual LVCC Picnic**. Once again the event was held at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions. And once again the weather gods smiled favorably on us with perfect picnic weather! **Keith** and **Jessica Reynolds** had been planning the picnic for months, and were there early with their family and friends to set up. They were joined by several of our club volunteers, including **Tom Harp**, **Deb Lamb** and **Enos Martin** who swept up, put up signage, covered tables and attached clusters of balloons. **Diane Farleigh**, President of the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club arrived next, eventually joined by Allentown Kiwanis volunteers **Terry Kennedy**, **Vic Mazziotti**, **Young Chang**, **Susan Martin**, **Deirdre Govan**, and **Todd Siegfried**. **David Tagg** and **Mike Piedmonte** of Allentown NE also pitched in. It was a real Kiwanis team effort! Over 90 Key Club volunteers from William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury, and

Southern Lehigh High Schools arrived around 9:30 AM. They were provided with a tour of the picnic grounds and activity stations, and assigned to LVCC classrooms as they arrived. The children wore t-shirts color-coded for their center. LVCC's South Mountain, Walnut Street, Early Learning Center (ELC) and Union Boulevard centers all participated. Once the children were dropped off, they were assigned to a group of Key Club volunteers, and started circulating among the six activity stations. Activities included a parachute game, obstacle course, t-ball, and bubble-making. There was an arts & crafts area where the children personalized drawstring backpacks. A big hit was the "Reptile Guy" who fascinated the kids with his managerie of snakes, lizards and turtles. Allentown **Mayor Matt Tuerk** stopped by. And the kids were thrilled when the LV Phantoms mascot **MeLVin** and the **Red Robin** joined them. The Salisbury Falcon and Allen Canary roamed the picnic grounds as well. The children were treated to a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, fruit snacks and drinks. Our Kiwanis volunteers prepared and passed out food on an assembly line, and the Key Clubbers served the children. After lunch, the children had a tour of a fire truck before being picked up for return to their centers. The picnic was a huge success!

We would like to once again recognize Keith and Jessica Reynolds, all of our Kiwanis Club and Key Club volunteers, the City of Allentown Parks and Recreation Department, the Allentown Fire Department, and Cedar Crest College for allowing us to use their lawn for the activities. We look forward to another amazing picnic next May!



What a Snake!



MeLVin



Backpack Art



Bubble Fun!



Parachute Game



Red Robin



Obstacle Course



Feeding the Kids!



Mayor Tuerk and President Tom

Mother's Day Flower Pot Project

For what we believe is the 9th year now, **Bob and Cindy Ashcraft** sponsored a Mother's Day Flower Pot Project at both the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) Walnut Street and Early Learning Center (ELC) locations. Bob and Cindy spent time with the children at ELC while **Terry Kennedy** helped out at Walnut Street. The children were given potted plants that they could customize. The kids had a great time, and their moms received a cherished gift on Mother's Day!



Bob, Cindy and Kids from ELC



Terry and Walnut Street Kids



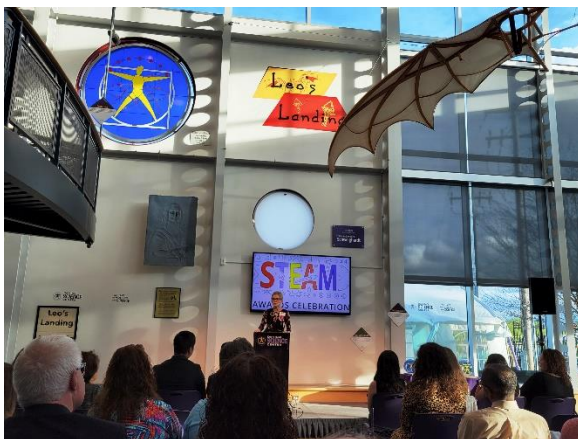
IronPigs Game!



As of this publication, there are 6 tickets left for our 11th Annual “Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs” game on Father’s Day, June 18. The Pigs will face the Toledo Mud Hens, the AAA team affiliate of the Detroit Tigers in this 1:35 PM game. Men will receive a bucket hat giveaway. We have reserved a Dugout Suite for the event, which includes a 2 ½ hour buffet beginning at 12:30 PM. Enter the West Gate of the stadium as early as 12:15 PM. One of our group will be able to throw a ceremonial first pitch prior to the game. We will also have a 50/50 drawing that will be held at the bottom of the 3rd inning. If you have not yet purchased a ticket to the game, contact Enos Martin ASAP at 610-509-5918 or Us4Martins@yahoo.com.

Da Vinci Center Partnership

There were two events hosted by the Da Vinci Science Center in May attended by our members. As was previously reported, our club and its Foundation have committed to a pledge of \$15,000 over 5 years to sponsor an exhibit in the new Da Vinci center in downtown Allentown. On May 2, **Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** attended the Annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Awards at the Da Vinci Science Center next to Cedar Crest College. There was a reception, fundraising raffle, and an opportunity to tour the facility. Awards were presented to area high school teachers who submitted STEAM projects for their classrooms. Then on May 9, Terry and Tom were joined by **Deb Lamb** at a Topping-Off Celebration for the new building. After a number of speeches by Da Vinci Center officials and other dignitaries, guests proceeded to an upper floor of the PPL Plaza building where they looked on as a giant crane placed the final I-Beam into place. The beam had been signed by guests prior to the program. This was a proud moment for the Da Vinci Center staff! We look forward to the building’s grand opening next spring, and an ongoing partnership with the Da Vinci Center as they offer unique learning experiences for children in our community.



STEAM Event



Artist's Rendition of New Center



Topping- Off Ceremony

June 8 Meeting



We are very excited to announce that the guest speaker at our June 8 dinner meeting will be **Tony Iannelli**, President and CEO of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, and host of “Business Matters” on WFMZ-TV. Since Tony took over the reins of the GLVCC in 1997, it has grown from 700 members to over 5,000, and is now the 7th largest Chamber in the United States. Tony is also a columnist for The Morning Call and can be heard on iHeart media stations. He is a guy with local roots, who is now one of the most dynamic speakers in our region. We have designated this meeting as a Kiwanis Interclub and have invited other clubs in our division to join us. At this meeting we will also be inducting our newest member, **Karen Baker**. And, we will be presenting college scholarship awards to several deserving Key Club members from local high schools. Don't miss this meeting!

2023 Kiwanis International Convention

President Tom Harp will be representing our club as its sole delegate at the 102nd Annual Kiwanis International Convention, June 21-24 in Minneapolis, MN. This is first live convention since the pandemic. It will be the fifth convention Tom has attended. He was at the 2000 convention in Miami Beach, the 2002 convention in New Orleans, the 2004 convention in St. Louis and most recently the 2018 convention in Las Vegas. He will be voting for KI Officers for the 2023-24 administrative year, and most importantly an amendment to the KI By-Laws increasing dues by \$30 a year. Our Board of Directors is opposed to an increase of that magnitude. We hope that someone will offer an amendment for a smaller increase. There will be several top-notch speakers including

Andrew Zimmern, Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods" host. The Oak Ridge Boys will be performing Saturday night. This is always a wonderful opportunity to network with Kiwanians from all over the world, and to benefit from a wide variety of educational sessions. Tom will provide a complete report in next month's newsletter.

Service Leadership Programs

All of our sponsored Service Leadership Programs (SLP's) have wound down for the academic year. Our local Key Clubs had an amazing turnout of volunteers at our Annual LVCC Picnic on May 11. **Enos Martin** reports that the Raub Middle School Builders Club conducted a school grounds cleanup on May 9. Nine students from the club filled up three garbage bags with litter using "grabbers" loaned out by the City of Allentown Recycling Center. They really enjoyed the workout! Every two weeks members of the club have been assisted by the Allen HS Key Club in distributing food at the school donated by the Second Harvest Food Bank. On May 31 members of the Raub Builders Club were rewarded by Enos for a very productive year with a Pizza Party at the school. We are still in the process of establishing a relationship with the Brandywine Heights Key Club. Our club advisor **Karen Baker**, and **Tom Harp** will be meeting with the Key Club faculty advisor **Kirsten Paxson** on June 2.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – June 1923

On June 21st, a number of Kiwanians attended a large inter-city Kiwanis gathering at Carsonia Park in Reading. The interclub meeting, organized by the Reading Kiwanis Club attracted over 500 individuals including Kiwanis members from sixteen clubs and their wives and families. A total of 297 Kiwanis members from Reading, Allentown, Easton, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Sunbury, Pottsville, Pottstown, Hazleton, McKeesport, Lebanon, York, Carlisle, Philadelphia, and Chester. Allentown won a silver loving cup for having the most Kiwanis members in attendance. As part of the large interclub, Allentown Kiwanis took on a team comprised of members from the Reading and Lebanon Kiwanis Clubs and came out as the victors 7-6.

75 Years Ago – June 1948

LeRoy Trexler, Club vice president, and board member Samuel J. McCurley, along with their wives, traveled cross country by car to attend the 33rd annual Kiwanis International convention in Los Angeles from June 6-10. Over 5,000 delegates attended the convention and elected J. Belmont Mosser of St. Mary's, PA, as president of the organization for 1949. California Governor Earl Warren addressed the convention. He would later be appointed to the Supreme Court and, as Chief Justice, led the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

50 Years Ago – June 1973

The monthly report to Kiwanis International included a number of club activities including:

- The sponsorship of a project by area Key Clubs to paint murals on the pillars of the bridge on Fish Hatchery Road to cover graffiti and beautify the area. Five Key

Clubs participated with the Parkland Key Club awarded a plaque for their outstanding mural.

- The ball gum machine fundraiser, which was reinstated several years ago, noted a total of 271 machines in operation across Allentown. The June treasurer's report indicated the 271 machines had collected \$1,180 year-to-date. We currently have about 15 machines in operation and have raised \$28 as of March of this year.
- Club president Robert Johnson and vice president Jack MacDonald attended the Kiwanis International Convention in Montreal.

25 Years Ago – June 1998

The club awarded \$1,000 Key Club scholarships to Jessica Bien, Allen High School, and Amy Barth, Allentown Central Catholic High School. Bien attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, majoring in Theater, graduating in 2001. She later joined the faculty at Muhlenberg College as the general manager of Theatre and Dance. Barth graduated from St. Joseph University in 2002 and has served as the Director of Corporate Outreach at St. Joseph University.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, June 8, 6:00 PM (5-6 PM Social Hour) at the Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be Tony Iannelli, President and CEO of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

SOCIAL EVENT – Sunday, June 18, 1:30 PM. Annual “Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs” game. Father’s Day giveaway bucket hat for men ages 18 and older.

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



June Birthdays



NONE!



- **Tom Harp, Editor**