



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

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## **The Downtowner**

*Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown*

**February 1, 2024**

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### **January 11 Meeting**



**Kathryn Best**

The speaker at our January 11 dinner meeting at the Shanty was our own member, **Kathryn Best**, Development Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown. Kathryn shared with us the many activities that organization provides to Allentown youth. Each year, the B&GCA services over 2,000 children at the Cumberland Gardens, Sixth Street and Turner Street Clubhouses, and the Teen Center on Seventh Street. They offer a variety of leadership development, education, arts and physical fitness programs. The “Make Your M.A.R.K.” (Motivated Academically Ready Kids) program provides individualized educational activities in math and reading, and motivational incentives for successful completion of work. Our club’s Foundation has helped

fund that program for many years. The “Literacy 4 R Youth” program develops reading skills by using three distinct daily sessions that include: Homework Help, Computer Lab support, and Reading Group activities. “Power Hour” helps students complete homework. And “Career Launch” exposes them to a variety of occupations and career paths. They emphasize health and life skills at all of their facilities. There are arts and crafts activities to stimulate personal expression. The kids enjoy year-round swimming at the indoor pool in the Sixth Street Clubhouse. They provide intermural sports opportunities as well as a garden club. The B&GCA provides a safe and nurturing environment for children. There are volunteer opportunities and they always accept donations! Their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will be held on May 6, 2024 at the Woodstone Country Club. Another popular fundraiser is the annual Golf Ball Drop. People purchase numbered golf balls that are dropped from a helicopter. Balls closest to a target win prizes. The Boys and Girls Clubs nationwide have been a preferred partner organization of Kiwanis International for decades. There is no more worthwhile cause for us to support!

## Annual Key Club Dinner



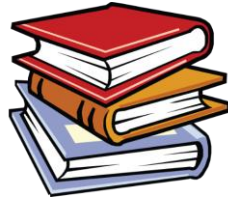
We are very excited to host our annual Key Club Dinner at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup> on **Thursday, February 8 at 6:00 PM**. We have invited the faculty advisors and two Key Club members from the five Key Clubs that we sponsor, from William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Brandywine Heights, Salisbury and Southern Lehigh High Schools. Also joining us will be the Pennsylvania District Key Club Administrator, **Bob Orlando**, as well as Key Club Zone Administrator **Morgan Coolbaugh**. This meeting has always been a highlight on our calendar. We will hear from each Key Club about their service projects, fundraisers, and other activities. Bob and Morgan will provide details about the Key Club Convention, to be held April 5-7 in State College, and the Key Leader Program April 12-14 at Camp Conrad Weiser. **Enos Martin** is Program Chair, and he will share the history of each Key Club with us. We are trying to start a new Key Club at the Lehigh Christian Academy, and we have invited a couple of their students to join us as well. So please show your support for these fine young people by attending our meeting on February 8

## MidYear Conference

The Pennsylvania District Kiwanis MidYear Conference will be held virtually on **Saturday, February 24** from **9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Cost is \$20, and you can register on-line at the District website, <https://k23.site.kiwanis.org>. The conference features sessions on club growth, leadership succession planning, how to inspire change, Young Children Priority

One partnerships, and more. There will be some terrific speakers, including **Katrina Baranko**, Kiwanis International President, **Jane Erikson**, Past KI President, and **Ben Hartranft**, an autism advocate. Pa. District Kiwanis **Governor Conrad Schlesinger** will welcome attendees and share his goals for the coming year. Please plan to sign up for this exciting conference!

## Read Across Pennsylvania



For the past several years, our club has participated in the “Read Across Pennsylvania” initiative by hosting a reading event at the LVCC after-school program at the Muhlenberg Elementary School. We purchase books for the children and read with them in groups. This year’s event is scheduled for **Monday, March 11**. We will be emailing a request for volunteers from the club in the next couple of weeks with all the details.

## Other Club News

- An election for Division 17/18 Lt. Governor for the 2024-25 fiscal year is being held on **Saturday, February 10** at **11:00 AM** on Zoom. Each of the 8 clubs in our division can register 3 delegates to vote in the election. Our club’s delegates are **Tom Harp, Karen Baker** and **Enos Martin**. At this time the sole candidate is **Janet Owen** of the Kiwanis Club of Easton.
- In the middle of winter, it may be hard to think about gorgeous spring weather, and our **Annual LVCC Picnic**. But we are already in the planning stages of this year’s picnic, to be held on **Thursday, May 16** at the Rose Garden Pavilions in Allentown. We have reserved all three pavilions, and will be meeting with LVCC staff in the coming weeks for an early planning session.
- We hope to come up with a Service Project in February. Stay tuned!
- In April, we plan to volunteer for an **Earth Day Project** in association with the West End Alliance.
- Once again this year, we have reserved a Dugout Suite for our annual “**Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs**” game on **Sunday, June 9** versus the Buffalo Bison. There will be an early Father’s Day Celebration at the ballpark. A flyer will be e-mailed to our members later this month. But save the date!
- Please plan to join us on **Sunday, March 10** from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM for our **Putting Contest Fundraiser** at the HiJinx Brewing Company. Details were provided in a recent e-mail to our members.

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### ***100 Years Ago – February 1924***

The Kiwanis Club held two special gatherings during the month. They opened with a Family Night on February 1. The Club entertained the wives and children of the members and also hosted Dr. J. H. Raker, head of the Good Shepherd Home. Dr. Raker provided an inspiring address on the work of the Home and brought along 20 boys from the home as guests of the Kiwanians. Later in the month, the Club held its fifth annual assembly at the Mealey Auditorium in Allentown with over 500 members and guests and their wives in attendance. The attendees enjoyed a dinner and dancing into the wee hours of the morning.

### ***75 Years Ago – February 1949***

Elwood Thomas, Club charter member and the Club's second president in 1919, passed away on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was a very instrumental resident of Allentown, Thomas was a member of the Board of Education for 12 years and served as its president for 8 years. During those years he took a lead role in the planning and construction of an addition to Allentown High School including a gymnasium and swimming pool and the building of the Roosevelt, Muhlenberg, and Ritter Schools. He served on the Allentown Recreation Commission for 24 years and the Chamber of Commerce board for 25 years.

### ***50 Years Ago – February 1974***

Jessica Savitch of KYW television in Philadelphia addressed the Club on February 21 on the topic of "Women in the Media". She provided many details on the difficulties women had in the television news media at the time. In the early 1970s, Savitch, a Delaware native, became the first television news anchorwoman in the south when she worked at a Houston station. In 1972 she joined KYW, then an NBC affiliate, and became a local celebrity in Philadelphia with women copying her hairstyle and men mobbing her on the street. She later joined NBC News in 1977 and was the network's second woman to anchor a national newscast. Tragically, she lost her life on October 23 due to an auto accident. After having dinner with a companion, on the way home from the restaurant, their car veered into the Pennsylvania Canal and dropped 15 feet landing upside down in the mud. Both Jessica and her companion drowned as a result of the accident.

### ***25 Years Ago – February 1999***

The Club sponsored several members of the Allen and Central Catholic Key Clubs in their attendance at the annual Pennsylvania District Key Club Convention which was held at the Mount Airy Lodge in the Poconos.

- ***Enos Martin***

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday, February 8, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM).  
**ANNUAL KEY CLUB DINNER!**

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



### *February Birthdays*



**7 - Todd Siegfried**

**28 - Keith Reynolds**

### *February Club Anniversaries*

**Jim Fronheiser - 56 Years!!**

**Lehigh Valley Children's Centers - 15 Years**



- *Tom Harp, Editor*