

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

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## **The Downtowner**

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

**July 1, 2024**

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### **June 13 Meeting**



The speaker at our June 13 dinner meeting was **John Annoni**, CEO and Founder of Camp Compass Academy in Allentown. **Vic Mazziotti** was program chair, and introduced John. The mission of Camp Compass is to introduce urban middle and high school students to various outdoor activities. It was founded in 1994 by John, who is a former teacher of 30 years. It is now a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Volunteer mentors provide hunting, fishing, archery, and other outdoor experiences, as well as tutoring and guidance. The program begins with students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at urban schools. A participant must be in the program at least 2 years before they are allowed to go on a hunting trip. John is also an author, including his first book, “From the Hood to the Woods.” Their trademark orange ribbon is to show unity and hunting awareness.

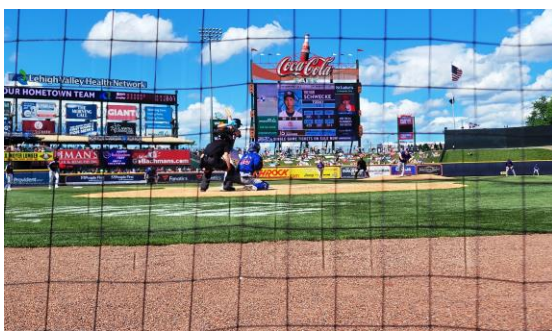


## West End Yard Sale



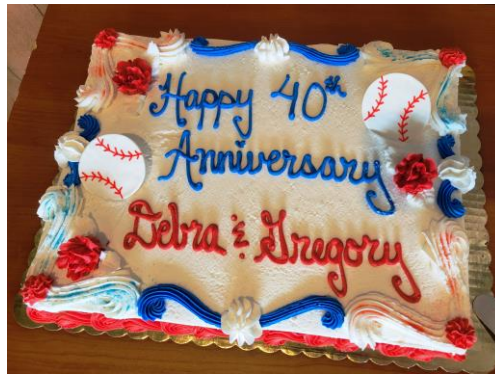
On June 1, our club participated in the West End Alliance Yard Sale, to raise money for our Foundation and its sponsorship of an exhibit at the DaVinci Science Center. We would like to thank all of our members, who donated over 150 items for the sale. We set tables up in front of the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup> early in the morning. The weather was perfect! Unfortunately, we had limited foot traffic in the area which affected sales. There was constant street traffic, and occasionally cars would pull over to check out our items. In the end, we raised \$124 towards the cause. Unsold items were either returned to the donors, or donated to the Salvation Army and Goodwill Thrift Shops. So, in the end, we raised a little money, raised some awareness of Kiwanis in the community, and those of us who were able to clean out attics, basements, and garages can rest easy that in the end their donations went to a good cause. We would also like to thank volunteers who helped out at the yard sale, and especially thank **Enos Martin** for organizing it.

## Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs



On Sunday, June 9, members of our Kiwanis Club and guests enjoyed a fun day at the Lehigh Valley IronPigs game in a dugout suite. Weather was perfect, with blue skies, low humidity, and a refreshing breeze. It was a pre-Fathers Day celebration with a bucket hat giveaway for men, and where dads could run the bases with their kids after the game. The game was a complete sellout. We enjoyed a 2 1/2 hour buffet in the suite. But the real highlight was joining **Deb** and **Greg Lamb** in celebrating their 40th Anniversary that day! IronPigs General Manager **Kurt Landes** stopped by to offer his best wishes, and Deb and Greg's big day was featured on the scoreboard. Around the 3rd inning, IronPigs catering delivered an Anniversary cake to the suite, which was shared with our group. We

serenaded the couple with a chorus of "Happy Anniversary." It was a wonderful outing and a special day for Deb and Greg!



## KI Convention



As you are reading this newsletter, President **Tom Harp** is on his way to Denver, Colorado to attend the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention. He and Vice-President **Karen Baker** will be our club's official delegates to the convention. As the Pennsylvania District Governor-Elect, Tom will be involved in all-day training on Wednesday. KI President **Katrina Baranko** will preside over the opening session on Thursday which will feature former professional baseball player **Chris Singleton**. His mother died in a racially-motivated mass killing. He has since dedicated his life to sharing a message of love over hate. There will be a series of education sessions throughout the day, followed by a group outing to the Colorado Rockies baseball game, featuring a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show. On Friday, we will continue to attend educational sessions and a Keynote Session with **Dyana Nyad**, world-renowned open water distance swimmer. The Kiwanis International Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, July 6, at which time we will elect officers and trustees for 2024-2025. There are three candidates for Vice-President and five candidates for three open Trustee positions. The most controversial amendment to be voted on will be Ki's proposal to increase their annual dues by \$25. At last year's convention, an amendment to raise dues by \$35 failed in the House of Delegates. Our club's Board of Directors does not support the \$25 dues increase. Our preference is for Amendment 5, which gradually increases dues over three years. Year 1 - \$15. Year 2 - \$10, Year 3 - \$5. For a total of \$30 over three years. We feel this will diminish the impact and allow clubs over time to ramp up internal fundraising to subsidize the increases. The convention will end with a "Dancing Through the Decades Gala" in the main ballroom of the Colorado Convention Center. Tom and Karen will provide a complete report on the convention at our July 11 dinner meeting, Wish us well!

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### **100 Years Ago – July 1924**

At the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, club member John A. Rupp, who was President of the Lehigh Motor Club, announced that in 1925 a paved road from Allentown to Philadelphia would finally come to fruition when the current route would be concreted in 1925.

The crack Kiwanis baseball team went undefeated in the month of July in the Allentown Businessmen's League with defeats of the Unco-St. Leger team twice by the same 3-2 score and the YMCA team 10-2 and 3-0. The team went on to win the Businessmen's league championship in 1924.

### **75 Years Ago – July 1949**

Touted as Kiwanis Aviation Day, the Kiwanis Clubs of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton met jointly in the main hanger of the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker was Captain William P. Odom, holder of round-the-world flight records and, prior to the meeting, had competed a non-stop 36-hour flight from Honolulu to Teterboro, NJ. The Junior Chamber of Commerce, later to be known as the Jaycees, also joined the meeting.

### **50 Years Ago – July 1974**

Longtime Philadelphia and Denver weatherman Bill Kuster spoke at the club meeting on July 18 at the Lehigh Valley Club with the title of his address "Now is the Time." In his address, he urged steps such as recycling and curbing the use of energy. He encouraged individuals to lead the effort rather than have government take action. Kuster served as the weatherman at KYW in Philadelphia from 1963 to 1979 when he moved to Denver CO. He continued as weatherman at KUSA in Denver until his retirement in 1996. He was elected in the Pioneer Broadcasters Hall of Fame posthumously in 2008.

### **25 Years Ago – July 1999**

An article in The Morning Call on July 28<sup>th</sup> touted an inner-city youth program co-funded by the Allentown Kiwanis Club and LCCC. The eight-day camp, aimed at minority students, taught the attendees how to use a computer keyboard and how to create documents. The participants also took a virtual tour of the White House using the internet.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, July 11, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM), Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Key Club Scholarship Check presentations, and Karen Baker on Club Membership Growth.**

**SERVICE PROJECT– Friday, July 19, 11:00 AM, arts and crafts project with 20 children at LVCC's Judith Chase Early Learning Center.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, July 25, 5 PM on Zoom.**



**July Birthday**



**15 - Peg Harp**

**June Club Anniversary**

**Tom Harp - 28 years**



- **Tom Harp, Editor**