



“Building our community, one child at a time”

# THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

## February 12th Meeting Recap

The February 12 meeting at the Shanty was our Annual Key Club recognition event. Allen, Salisbury, and Southern Lehigh were represented with their advisors in attendance. They each gave an update on their club’s activities. Tom Beaupre, Southern Lehigh’s Key Club advisor for approximately 30 years, indicated that he was retiring from teaching at the end of this school year. The school will need to find a replacement for him. Our own Kiwanis members, Katelyn Quinn, Rudy Shadle, and Mary DiFebo, who were Key Club members, also related their experiences as Key Club members. Janet Owen the PA District Governor Elect and Diane Farleigh of Division 17/18 attended as well!



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Anniversaries

James Fronheiser - 58 Years

LVCC - 17 Years

### Birthdays

Keith Reynolds- February 28

Young Chang - March 23

## A Glance into Our Past

### 100 Years Ago – February 1926

For seven years beginning in 1920, the Club organized a Kiwanis Assembly held at the Mealey Auditorium in downtown Allentown. The event featured exquisite decorations, the finest of musical entertainment, and a festive dinner with dancing to the wee hours of the morning. As many as 600 Kiwanians and guests would attend the social event of the year in Allentown. The last such event was held on February 13, 1926. The event was scaled down to a dinner/dance in future years beginning in 1927.

### 75 Years Ago – February 1951

Movie stars Susan Cabot and Alex Nichol helped send off 37 Army and Air Force enlistees in ceremonies held at the downtown Allentown Centre Square. The two starred in the 1951 movie Tomahawk, the story of the Great Sioux Uprising in 1866. The movie was playing at the Earle Theater in downtown Allentown.

The two movie stars spoke about the development process for Hollywood movie stars at the Kiwanis lunch meeting at the Americus Hotel.

### 50 Years Ago – February 1976

The Club announced its intention to donate \$200 towards historic preservation in Lehigh County. The funds would be used most likely to renovate the springhouse at the Troxell-Steckel House, an historic American home located in Egypt. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

### 25 Years Ago – February 2001

The February 9th edition of the Morning Call recognized the Club’s contributions to “Personalized Books Given to Children, Inc”, a Learn to Read Program. During February, the books would be presented to first graders at Mosser Elementary and Jefferson Elementary. The program was run by former club member Terry Kennedy, now a member of Allentown NE Kiwanis.

### Former Kiwanian Obituary

*James R. O'Reilly*

Past club president James R. (Jim) O'Reilly passed away peacefully on January 27, 2026, in Allentown. Jim joined the Kiwanis Club of Allentown in June 1961.

He was elected to a two-year directorship in 1970-71. In 1972-73, O'Reilly was elected as 2nd vice president and subsequently 1st vice president in 1973-74. Jim served as club president in 1974-75. He resigned from the Club in January 1987. In his working career, Jim was a professional engineer and worked for a number of HVAC firms, including Air Engineers where he served as the company's president.



## Upcoming Meeting

### March 12th

Our next meeting will be at the Shanty at 6pm with guest speaker, Jessica Katzbeck from Haven House.

## Upcoming Events

### Read Across America - March 13th

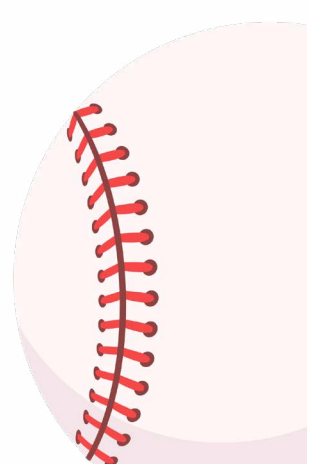
WHERE: 21st & Washington Sts.  
Allentown, PA 18104-4088



Kiwanians will be reading to children at LVCC Muhlenberg Elementary at 4pm for Read Across America.

### Phillies Vs. The Chicago Cubs

WHERE: Citizen Ball Park  
WHEN: 6:40 PM



Tom Harp has made arrangements to rent a Corporate Party Suite at Citizens Bank Park for Monday, April 13 when the Phillies take on the Chicago Cubs for a 6:40 PM game.

The suite holds 20 guests. Tickets will be offered first to fellow Kiwanians at no cost. If you wish to attend, you will be responsible for transportation to and from the ballpark and of course, parking.

Food and beverages will be provided.

Let Tom know if you are interested in attending.