IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
The Kiwanis Club of Geneseo's Cubs Raffle is still open!! See page 8 for details.

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JULY-AUGUST 2019
Hey Kiwanians, those of you that attended the International Convention in Orlando had the opportunity to hear Jim Collins speak. Collins is the author of *Good To Great*, most recently *Turning the Flywheel*, as well as five other books. His ideas are based on organizational management research from his laboratory in Boulder, CO.

Collins didn’t hold back and just give Kiwanians teasers about successful organizations and promote his books. He spelled out the process that good companies and organizations have used to transition to become great.

**Good is the enemy of Great!**

When things are going good, we all are hesitant to change things. But we have that nagging feeling that it could be better. Some team members don’t want to mess up things when they are going well. Good is the enemy of great. Apple moved away from only computers to develop the iPod, then the iPhone. If they hadn’t they might not be in business, anymore.

Collins says G2G organizations need Disciplined People, Disciplined Thought, Disciplined Action, and also need to Develop Greatness that will last. If that sounds easy, Collins studied 1,435 organizations to come up with 11 great ones. That’s less than 8/10ths of 1 percent. Those are pretty high standards. Most are just looking to do things better and survive, it seems.

The Disciplined People: an organization needs to regularly put Level 5 Leaders in positions of influence. Level 5 Leaders display a mix of “personal humility and indomitable will.” They are obsessed with doing what’s good for the organization, not money or recognition. Next, an organization needs to develop a culture of Level 5 Leaders and get the right ones in the right seats on the bus.

Disciplined Thought is determining what an organization can be the best at and that their people will be passionate about. In Kiwanis, it can be said that we are the best at engaging kids in service leadership. G2G organizations recognize the brutal truths as a disciplined thought. A brutal truth for Kiwanis could be we need better member retention.

Disciplined Action takes place in a culture of discipline where people take their responsibilities seriously and do their best within organizational values and an ethical framework. Each action is intended to turn the flywheel of momentum. My example of a Kiwanis Club flywheel might look like the one below. The little wheels support the direction of the main objective flywheel.
This summer has been busy with friends, fun and fellowship! We experienced these three things at our International Convention this year! I hope you had the opportunity to join us in Orlando for the Kiwanis International Convention where we celebrated another great year of Kiwanis!

We have a great I-I District, and we need to remember that with all the different people we touch on a daily basis. We have lots of fun activities going on, both professional and personal, and we need to remember to ask those most important to us to come and join our clubs and divisions for meaningful fellowship while serving the children in our communities.

I hope to see everyone at District Convention this week in Springfield. A big thanks to Tom and Elizabeth Bazan and the DCON Committee for all of their hours and dedication in putting together a great convention for us all to be able to attend.

Even though the District Convention registration and delegate certification websites are now closed, you can do both of these on site this weekend. You will need to have a completed delegate form with you to register as a delegate on-site. The form is found by clicking this link here.

And a final reminder, to attend the Last Chance Club Leadership Education at District Convention, please register by clicking here. The separate President, Secretary/Treasurer and Membership sessions will be held on Friday, August 2 from 1:00pm-4:30pm. Hope to see you there!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and hope to see you soon!

ANDREA RAYCRAFT
I-I DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**The Special Blankie**

By M. Christina Butler

Reviewed by Joyce Mesrobian, M.Ed.

A young child treasures his/her blanket (blankie) that brings a certain special comfort that the young child alone can feel but cannot explain. *The Special Blankie* by Christina Butler captures a day in the life of a baby Hedgehog and his blankie.

One bright, warm, spring day, Little Hedgehog and his cousin Baby Hedgehog go on an adventure to hunt bluebells in Wild Flower Woods. Of course, Baby Hedgehog’s red blankie goes along, too. Along the way, Badger, Fox and Mouse join them.

When they all approach the Wild Flower Woods, Baby Hedgehog runs ahead and disappears for a while, but returns to cry out that he has lost his blankie. Another adventure begins when everyone joins in the search for the blankie and Mouse falls into a deep hole and can’t get out. Oh, what to do! What to do! Blankie comes to the rescue. How? The secret is in the book.

The whimsical artwork enhances the endearing narrative of Baby Hedgehog’s blankie and the combined efforts of his friends to find his treasured comforter. An added feature is the raised felt material of the red blankie on several pages that children can feel with their fingers.

The combined team of British author Christina Butler and illustrator Tina Macnaughton have created a host of beloved children’s books about Little Hedgehog’s adventures. Several titles include *One Noisy Night*, *One Special Christmas*, *The Special Sleepover*, *One Snowy Rescue*, *One Snowy Night*, and *One Rainy Day*. These picture books of Little Hedgehog and friends are ideal for young children who can easily follow the story line as it moves along seamlessly with the sparse text and the engaging, uncluttered, large illustrations.

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**About Joyce Mesrobian**

Joyce Mesrobian was a preschool teacher for 30 years and an adjunct faculty member for eight years at a local college. Also, for 20 years, she wrote a children’s book review column for a major early childhood organization, the Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children. Mesrobian is a member of the Lindenhurst Kiwanis Club.
SCHOOL STARTS SOON!

TOP TEN WAYS FOR YOUR KIWANIS CLUB TO SUCCESSFULLY SPONSOR A KEY CLUB!

By Paul Palazzolo

Follow these guidelines for a GREAT partnership. Strong Key Club support equals a strong Kiwanis Club.

1. Assign a specific Kiwanis club advisor for each Key Club you sponsor.
2. Encourage the Kiwanis club advisor to attend as many Key Club events as possible.
3. Schedule a 15-minute “check-in” meeting with the high school principal.
4. Make sure Key Clubbers and faculty advisor(s) are included in Kiwanis club planned projects.
5. Plan one or two fun events with Key Club (i.e. bowling tournament, mini-golf tournament).

6. Budget service account funds for Key Club attendance at major events:
   a. District Convention (March 13-15, 2020 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield IL) and...
   b. Key Club International Convention (July 1-5, 2020 in San Francisco CA).
7. Invite Key Club members to be the Kiwanis club meeting program during Key Club Week (November 4-8, 2019).
8. Ensure that Key Club dues are paid by November 1, 2019 ($12 per member sent to Key Club International).

9. Schedule a Kiwanis club meeting program on Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines.
10. Work with Key Club leaders to coordinate a Kiwanis membership effort for parents. Follow these guidelines for a GREAT partnership.

KEY CLUB

JimCollins.com gives away a lot of ideas without steering the visitor to buy this book or course. One can learn about Level 5 Leadership without buying anything. Collins is different in that he doesn’t crank out a new book every year with little new content; he really acts in a manner that says he wants organizations to become great. His huge success story is that Amazon has used many of his idea to grow like they have.

ALAN ARBUCKLE
I-I DISTRICT GOVERNOR
FREEPORT — More than 60 members of Freeport Kiwanis Club are getting ready to celebrate the organization’s 100 years of service, and it kicked off the celebration with an official proclamation by Mayor Jodi Miller who on Monday declared July 25 Kiwanis International Day during a Freeport City Council meeting.

There are more than 500,000 members of the Kiwanis International service organization.

“I commemorate 100 years of service to the Freeport community,” Miller said. “I call upon all citizens of Freeport thereof to render support to members of this organization and make themselves aware of Kiwanis International, whose members this day are providing meaningful service to our homes, schools, and community.”

The Kiwanis Club of Freeport has 63 active members, including seven new members this year. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International, the club is hosting a 100-year anniversary dinner gala at the Eagles Club on Sept. 19 in Freeport.

Cheryl Johnson, president of the Kiwanis Club in Freeport said it is an honor to have the local service organization recognized by the city. Although the official anniversary is July 25, the local organization will wait until fall to celebrate with the community.

“One-hundred years is an important milestone for us,” Johnson said. “Our mission is to serve the children of the world and this starts right here in Freeport. This proclamation is a testament to the people in Freeport. Being part of Kiwanis is being with like minds. I love the energy of people. It’s synergy, and it’s where I belong.”

The Freeport Kiwanis Club’s first regular meeting took place on July 25, 1919, at what was then the Senate Hotel. The first charter had a membership of 41. The local club’s history is filled with accomplishments. In 1932, a special train was secured to take more than 200 boys and girls on a trip to Chicago; in 1938, children were taken to the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago; on Nov. 10, 1953, the first Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast was held, with 1,200 people served at 75 cents per ticket; and it was in the 1970s that membership peaked at 104 members.

The club has contributed thousands of dollars to the local community. They also provide four $750 scholarships annually to graduating seniors of Freeport, Aquin and Winnebago High Schools, as well as a recipient from the AVID program.

This is a club that is often seen as “rolling up their sleeves” for Freeport. The Kiwanis Little Kids Playground, located to the carousel in Krape Park, is maintained by Kiwanis volunteers.

Marla Nesmith of Freeport has been a member for nine years and said she is pleased to be part of an organization that “is all about the kids.”

“Everything we do is about the children,” Nesmith said. “We have fun and to know we are marking 100 years is special.”

Hello Kiwanis,

With the Circle K school year beginning soon I would like to ask you for your continued support of our clubs. Your clubs’ encouragement and constant support for I-I’s Circle K has helped our clubs grow and thrive. Thank you so much for all of your help.

If your club does not currently support a Circle K club, I would like to ask you to seek out one to help or we can work together and try to charter a new Circle K near you. Thank you again for allowing I-I’s Circle K International to also serve the children of the world.

Yours in Service,

CHRISTINA SANDERSON
I-I CIRCLE K DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Soon after his election to 2018-19 Division 8 Lt. Governor, Len Mazurowski, long-time member and Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Palatine, started thinking about one of his goals. Actually, he had been thinking about it for some time. Four years ago the district mobilized to complete final assembly of special playground equipment at Camp Independence. Len, always handy with tools, organized a group of his fellow club members to help out. After arriving at the Camp in Ingleside, IL he said, “Lots of things have changed but many have not.” One of the new things was the Camp Independence lodge overlooking Fish Lake. Smiling, he remarked “I learned to swim in that lake when I was ten years old.” Some quick math by his friends revealed that was 65 years ago! Clearly, Len had fond memories of the Camp.

Camp Independence was created from a portion of YMCA Camp Duncan about ten years ago and has become a very important place for the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District’s “Finest Project.” Len wanted to do more for the Camp, and after becoming Lt. Governor, he had the platform to do it. Sharing his thoughts with some club members, he decided to plan a big spring clean-up service project at the Camp – not just a few people raking up some leaves – something larger that would involve the entire division. He was not exactly sure how to get it started but his friend, Past Lt. Gov. Jim Parker, said, “not a problem, I know just who to call.” He contacted Larry Forsberg, Chairman of the Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation, and described Len’s idea. Forsberg thought it was terrific and would be a real benefit to the Camp. He put Len in touch with Kim Kiser, YMCA’s Executive Director of the Camp. She enthusiastically agreed, saying that she would appreciate anything he could do. Len and Jim met with Kim, Camp Director Rona Roffey, and Head Caretaker Fred Cribbett. Together they set a date, May 11, 2019 and came up with several tasks the Camp would like to accomplish. When the project was brought up at a monthly division council meeting, the clubs were all for it but had some concerns. Sometimes large projects have unrealistic goals, are not well organized and necessary supplies and equipment are not there. Len addressed these issues with Kim and, together, they completed the final project plans.

The morning of May 11 was overcast and rain threatened at the 12:30pm starting time. Despite these conditions more than...
20 volunteers representing five of the nine clubs in the division (along with Gov. Alan Arbuckle and KNRF Chairman Forsberg) showed up on time and went to work. Here are some of the things they did:

**Project 1**

The walls of the basement in the lodge building needed some paint. Members of the Palatine and Arlington Heights clubs jumped on this and completed the project with skill and efficiency.

**Project 2**

The exterior of the boathouse near the lake also needed painting. Volunteers from eKiwanis of Greater Chicago tackled this one. It was made more difficult because portions had to be taped before painting. The building looked much better when they were done.

**Project 3**

Kim asked early on if we could make a Ker-Plunk game for the kids. These are small, raised platforms upon which a cylinder (made of chicken wire) three feet high and about 20 inches in diameter is placed. A dozen or so wood dowel rods are randomly inserted into the wire to form an irregular floor. Plastic balls are put in the cylinder but do not fall through because of the dowels. Children (usually two) play the game by taking turns removing the rods one at a time. The object is to not let the balls fall to the ground. The child who lets through the fewest balls is the winner. When Ted arrived at the project with the Ker-Plunk toys he also brought her ten more bat houses.

**Project 4**

There is one other aspect of Division 8’s involvement with the Camp that, though not a part of the “official” project, should be noted. Ted Sigg read an article in the Kiwanis magazine about some Kiwanians in Florida who organized a group of kids to build bat houses. Their area had a serious mosquito problem and bats are known to consume large quantities of them. The idea was to donate the bat houses to camps and park districts in order to attract bats and, thus, help them control the mosquitoes. Ted thought, “We can do that.” He told Len about his idea, and Len passed it on to the clubs. Ted said he would gather materials, design a simple bat house and cut out the components from pine or cedar. The clubs could come to his shop and assemble and paint bat houses. The only real issue was which agencies would need and accept a donation of bat houses? Len already knew. He volunteered his club to be the first to take Ted up on his offer.

When he met with Kim at the Camp he took along four and asked if she could use them. Well, it seems that YMCA camps are located in woody area near water so mosquitoes often plague the campers. Kim said having bats living nearby will help keep the mosquitoes out of the cabins so, gratefully, she accepted the donation. Len asked if she could use more of them, and Kim replied, “As many as you can get me.” When Ted arrived at the project with the Ker-Plunk toys he also brought her ten more bat houses.

**Project 5**

One of the more ambitious projects involved several large flower boxes, each of which contains about 60 cubic feet of dirt. Over the years the dirt had pushed out the sides and destroyed the inside supports. All of the dirt had to be removed, the supports replaced, and then refilled. Head Caretaker Cribbett built the new supports and Len, Gov. Arbuckle, and several other volunteers helped install them.

**Project 6**

Perhaps the largest and most time-consuming task the Camp wanted to address was the removal of a number of dead trees (some were quite large) and accumulated brush located in wooded areas in and around the camp. In the days leading up to the project camp staff cut up the larger trees with chain saws and identified the area of most pressing concern. Kiwanis volunteers, led by Day Camp Director Nic Miller, climbed through the sometimes dense woods and brought out, one by one, sections of trees and loaded them onto one of several trailers that were pulled by golf carts waiting on the trails. Armloads of brush also were brought out and put on the trailer. Miller, along with Forsberg and Parker, made trip after trip to a remote area of the Camp where the debris was unloaded onto a burn pile. As the painting and flower box projects were completed, the workers joined in the project.
KER-PLUNK continued from previous page

until almost everyone at the Camp was involved. Then, about 3:30pm, it started to rain. Parker said, “Just when I thought everyone would be shutting down, they just started to work harder!” We all wanted to complete the project. About an hour later it became obvious that this very large task would not be completed within our allotted time. The last loads of tree sections were taken to the now quite large burn pile.

**Project 7**

The Camp had another project they asked the group to take on. Two brick retaining walls, each surrounding a large tree, were in bad condition and needed to be dismantled. Everyone started to pick up the bricks and take them to trailers for later transport. Some of the bricks were buried and had to be dug out with shovels. Before long this job also was completed.

By late in the afternoon all of the tasks were completed except the tree and brush clearing. Kim told Len earlier that she really did not expect that we would finish all of the tasks on the agenda but later acknowledged that much more of the project got done than anyone at the Camp thought likely. As the Kiwanis volunteers prepared to leave, Rona and many of the staff made a point of thanking as many of them as possible.

Len reported that the project went off completely as planned and complimented Kim on how well the individual tasks were organized and supervised by camp staffers. He pointed out that many of the Div. 8 volunteers told him that when they saw how well everything was organized, it made them even more enthusiastic about working hard to make the day a success for the camp and the division. And it was hard work. Chairman Forsberg observed that projects like this are “not supposed to be easy and this one was no exception. Hard working volunteers from Div. 8 are great friends of Camp Independence. Bravo. Job well done!” ☺

**CUBS AND CARDS FOR A CAUSE!**

**KIWANIS CLUB OF GENESEO’S**

**3rd ANNUAL CUBS RAFFLE FOR THE ELIMINATE PROJECT**

**Contact Ed Kemnitz to enter!**

(309) 945-8721 or edkemnitz@mchsi.com

Make checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Geneseo. Payment must be received no later than August 30.

For details, contact Ed or see the May-June Illeiwian issue.