During the K-Family weekend, Key Club Governor Amy Lorenc (left), Governor Doreen Pellitteri, Key Club member and Circle K Governor Mike Ott, right, cut the material used to make a blanket that will be presented to a child at the Albany Pediatric Trauma Center. The great project had the K-Family working together for the benefit of children.
Kiwanis Int'l Proposes Major Revenue Changes in Nashville

Thomas E. DeJulio, Past International Trustee

Like many nonprofits, Kiwanis International has been examining its revenue sources in order to determine how it can better leverage its resources to achieve organizational growth and service objectives. As a Kiwanis International Trustee and as a member of the Revenue Task Force formed over a year ago headed by International Trustee Don Sanker, I have been advancing certain ideas which the Kiwanis International Board approved in October for presentation to the House of Delegates in Nashville in June 2009.

There are just three of the important initiatives for our members to consider and approve in Nashville:

1. Transition of the New Member Add Fee: The term "Add Fee" has a terribly negative connotation and is perceived as a immediate "penalty" on recruitment. Moreover, the manner in which Kiwanis has collected this fee in the context of our three-part billing cycle has seriously impaired prompt reporting and enrollment of new members. It has also created havoc on the calculations needed for awards incentive. The Ki Board is recommending that the “add fee” be replaced by a “New Member Enrollment Fee.” The fee will be a graduated enrollment fee based on an established rate schedule when the new member enrolls. The fee will be levied on the current combined total of dues ($42), magazine ($8) and insurance ($12).

2. Establishing One Common Annual Billing Cycle: In preparation for a new one-time billing system to be initiated in 2010-11, the three group billing cycle will be replaced with one annual billing based on the number of members reported as of midnight September 30. To facilitate the transition for clubs currently in the Groups 2 and 3 cycles, a reasonable payment deferral system will be enacted to phase-in the transition so as not to harm club finances and cashflow.

3) Replacing the word “Dues” in the Kiwanis International Bylaws with the term “Annual Club Fee”: Contrary to what most members believe, members do not pay dues to Kiwanis International nor do they pay dues to their Districts. They are members of clubs to which they remit club dues. By remitting club dues, they do not become members of Kiwanis International or District. Members owe their primary loyalty to support the financing of their clubs and the members themselves decide the amount of their club dues. Kiwanis Clubs are “members” of Kiwanis International and the Districts in which they reside. To make this distinction clearer, the Ki Board is proposing to amend the Bylaws to state that clubs in good standing are levied an “Annual Club Fee” based on the number of members reported in each club by midnight on September 30. The cost of this fee will be no more than $52 for each reported member, the current combined total of dues ($42), magazine ($8) and insurance ($12).

With the implementation of online billing and “real-time” Ki Board is recommending that Kiwanis International believes these changes, including the reconfiguration of dues, magazine, and insurance into one annual club fee along with the eventual elimination of individual “dues waivers,” will lead to a reduction in costs and less cumbersome revenue collection process.

Anticipating that there will be many questions, I will be discussing Kiwanis’ position on these other changes at a special forum to be held at the New York District Mid-Year conference on Saturday morning February 21. I hope many will attend to further clarification and understanding of the importance of these changes to improve the efficiency of our Kiwanis organization.

Secretary/Treasurer
Ann Sewert

The District Office has a new location. The Office is now located at 1108 West Maple Ave., Newark, New York 14513. The new phone number is 315-331-6452 and the fax number is 315-331-6564. We will continue to use distroffice@kwianis-ny.org for our email address. I can also be reached at ann1@rochester.rr.com. The move to Newark is almost complete and I’m still “settling in.” Thank you for your patience through this transition period.

IRS Information

Beginning in 2008, some organizations in the United States that were not required to file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) - including Kiwanis clubs - will have a new filing requirement: the new electronic postcard Form 990-N.

Small, tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts normally are $25,000 or less are not required to file IRS forms 990 or 990-EZ. But the Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires these organizations to file the new electronic form annually. Failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of the organization’s tax-exempt status.

The standard information the IRS will require when filing the electronic Form 990-N is the name of your Kiwanis club, mailing address, Web site address (if applicable), employer identification number (EIN), annual tax period date, and a statement that annual gross receipts are normally $25,000 or less. Because Kiwanis International operates on a fiscal year (October 1-September 30), the first filing will be for the tax period that begins October 1, 2007 and ends September 30, 2008, with a filing due date of February 15, 2009.

Many Kiwanis clubs may already have received a notice from the IRS regarding this new requirement. If your club hasn’t been notified, refer to the IRS Web site to see if the new rule applies to your club.

Links to additional information can be found on the Kiwanis International website. At the home page, click on the big red members button, then Club Leader Tools, then Club Treasurer.

Check out the
New York District
Website at
www.kwianis-ny.org

2009 Mid-year Basket Raffle

Angie Politano

This year, as in the past, we will be holding a basket raffle at the Mid-Year Conference at the Hudson Valley Resort on February 20-22. The success of this year’s raffle is truly a shining achievement for our District and for all of our generous Kiwanians within. This year Governor Doreen has designated CMN Hospitals in Rochester and Syracuse will split one half of the proceeds and the Pediatric Trauma Centers in Buffalo, Albany and Long Island will share the other half.

We are requesting at least one gift basket from each member of the district's five clubs. The basket can be thrown into the raffle at the February Conference. Of course, we will be happy to accept as many baskets as are donated. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase the uniqueness of your Club or Division and to highlight the products native to your area.

We hope to create some excitement and fun at our weekend at the Hudson Valley Resort and in the process raise much needed money for charities.

If you have any questions about the raffle, please contact me, DPLG Angie Politano, mcmn.com or at (718) 823 9100. I look forward meeting you and the fruits of your labor in February. Thank you.

2009 Mid-year Conference slated for February 20-22nd in Hudson Valley

Plans are underway for our Mid-Year Conference scheduled for February 20-22, 2009, at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa, in Kerhonkson, New York. Throughout the weekend we will celebrate the Diversity of our New York District, with a few surprises from our Diversity Committee.

On Friday afternoon PG Justin and DPLG Joanne Underwood will hold a Club Leadership Training for Presidents and Secretaries. Justin and Joanne do an awesome job of presenting the duties and responsibilities of the club officers. Our officers don’t know this one.

Saturday morning begins with a “Shower for Kamp Kiwanis”. Please purchase items from the Kamp Wish List to support the 2009 Kamp Kiwanis. Items can be presented to Carole Anelli and her committee. PLG Janice Seyfried will show the clubs how to market and brand their clubs with the new tools from Kiwanis International. Past International Treasurer Total Lopez will discuss ways to hold safe successful projects with minimal risk to the clubs and participants. Past International Trustee Tom DeJulio and DPG Joe Corace will hold a lively discussion on Fundraising - $21 (3) or $21 (4)? DPG Joe is looking for fundraising ideas. Please contact DPG Joe at joecorace@uaxd.com, or if you are willing to share your fundraising ideas during the conference, please email International Treasurer, Jack Harten, KIF Board Member Peter Mancuso and KIF Annual Gift Campaign Chairman, Joe Eppolito will team up to share programs with the International Foundation. Kamp Kiwanis Director Rebecca Lopez and Foundation President Sal Anelli, will share how the Kamp Serves Adults with Disabilities. This is an awesome line up of Fundraising workshops. Tired? The day doesn’t stop there. We will spend the evening honoring Immediate Past Governor Don Herring, First Lady Marlene and their team of Dream Catchers. Past Governor Don and First Lady Marlene have a special thank you. Thank you Don and Marlene.

Our Mid-Year Conference 2009 is dedicated to Reverend Frederick Bush, (a.k.a Father Bush of the Finger Lakes Division). Please take a few minutes to congratulate Father Bush and thank him for his many years of service to Kiwanis.

The weekend isn’t over until you’ve visited one, or all of the Hospitality rooms. The hospitality rooms will feature different countries. Be on the lookout for some interesting foods, customs, or costumes.

What country are you from?

This is in one Mid-Year Conference that you don’t want to miss. Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship. MAIL OR FAX Your Reservations To: Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, Attn: Reservations Department, 400 Granite Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446 FAX: (845) 626-2677 (No Phone Reservations)
Governor Doreen & First Gent Dr. Peter
Visit Adirondack and St. Lawrence

ADIRONDACK AND ST. LAWRENCE DIVISIONS – welcomed Governor Doreen Pellittieri and husband Peter to the beautiful Adirondacks. This was Governor Doreen’s first Official Visit as Governor. The day started with breakfast in the restaurant of Crown Plaza Hotel & Resort which sets atop the hill in Lake Placid, surrounded by the beautiful Adirondack Mountains and over looks Mirror Lake in the heart of Lake Placid.

After breakfast our next stop was to Tupper Lake and the “Wild Center”. This is a museum of the Adirondack and all creatures’ great and small know this area as home.

There is a great deal to see at this museum and local Kiwanians recommend it to everyone. The museum caters to young people. It was very hard for all to leave since, there was still so much to see.

The next stop was in Saranac Lake where the First Family was treated to a train ride through the village and into Lake Placid, on rails that were used many years ago by the summer visitors to the Adirondack to get away from the heat of the City. Several members of the St. Lawrence Division enjoyed the trip.

After lunch in Lake Placid, all boarded the train and headed back to Saranac Lake hotel to prepare for the Governor’s meeting with the club officers. Everyone enjoyed cocktails and the view from the bar was outstanding. The Adirondack Mountains were in all their glory. It was a great showing of colors.

Guests gathered in the dining room to share dinner and to listen to the Governor’s Plans for our N Y District. The meeting was called to order and two members of the Action Club of Adirondack, co sponsored by Saranac Lake Club and Plattsburgh Breakfast Club, recited the Pledge of Allegiance. “America” was lead by Tony Moran of Breakfast Club and PBD Linda Gonyo-Horne gave the benediction. After which all raised their glasses to say farewell to Vince Forrest, a champion of Key Club, who recently passed away.

Governor Doreen was introduced and all visiting dignitaries welcomed, after which dinner was served. Governor Doreen spoke of her plans for this year, during her term. She is advocating “Fostering Self-Esteem” in our youth through many of the programs already in place in Kiwanis, such as Terrific Kids, BUG’s, Give praise for a job well done when you see it happen and many other means to maintain and add to these numbers.

Governor Doreen Pellittieri graciously accepts gifts from the clubs in the Adirondack and St. Lawrence Divisions.

First Gentleman Peter and I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and we wish you all a healthy and happy new year!

The Ontario Division welcomed Peter and me warmly on October 29th for the Governor’s Official Visit. We would like to thank LG Rita Brigman and all of the Kiwanians who attended for making this evening so enjoyable. I received a “great pumpkin” which was hand carved with the Kiwanis International logo and the Doreen’s Team logo by Kiwanian Mike Swanka. We brought the pumpkin with us to Lake George for the Circle K 27th Annual Speaking Conference where it adorned the head table for the weekend.

As planned, I traveled to Albany in November to join my counterparts, Governors Amy Lorenz and Mike Ott, and our respective Boards at the Kiwanis Family Tri K Weekend. Kiwanians, Key Club members and Circle K members interacted throughout the weekend. We especially enjoyed the challenging events that were planned on Friday evening and making blankets on Saturday evening to be donated to the children at the Albany Pediatric Trauma Hospital. Kia Albertson-Rogers, International President for Key Club and Kristen Reed, the International President for Circle K honored us with their presence as well.

The upcoming Mid Winter Conference is our next opportunity to come together and experience great fellowship and attend the Kiwanis educational forums. I hope to see all of you there as we celebrate our diversity as New York District Kiwanians. N Y District will honor Reverend Frederick Bush as our the Conference Honoree. Father Bush is a Past President of the Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club and has provided tireless dedicated service to Kiwanis. Father Bush has officiated at the Catholic religious services at our mid winter and district conventions for many years. IP Governor Don Herring and his Dream Team will also be recognized for their accomplishments during the 2007-2008 Kiwanis year.

Our membership team will be at the Conference conducting a Growth Summit and I hope each club will plan to have at least one member attend these sessions. Last year we reached new heights for membership growth and it is the responsibility of each one of us to maintain and add to these numbers.

Your Lieutenant Governor has planned a Division Meeting in or around the month of February and wants each Club to attend and bring guests who might be prospective members to our organization. We want to spotlight the clubs that make up each division and provide Kiwanis education along with our great fellowship. We hope to attract new members through this effort and we need this end. First Gent Peter’s project this year is Promoting Healthy Children. Clubs are encouraged to set up projects such as dental check ups, vaccination promotion and flu shots. The area club’s presented the Governor with gifts, most of which were for Kamp Kiwanis her favorite project, but a few interesting items were also offered along with the checks.

It was a fun night and most important the Adirondack Division and St. Lawrence Division was afforded the company of our District Governor, Doreen Pellittieri. The Division’s send out thanks to Governor Doreen and Dr. Peter for their visit. Thank you to Adirondack Lt. Governor Bonnie Fenwick and St. Lawrence Lt. Governor Carol Mason for their warm hospitality.

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Above is First Gent Peter and friend Irv Trumble enjoying one of the museum displays.

Standing in front of the glacier display is Dr. Peter, Irv, Pat, Lt. Gov. Carol, Governor Doreen and Lt. Gov. Bonnie.

Guests enjoyed a box lunch in a nearby park in Lake Placid. The stop was only ½ hour. It was a cool day and the delicious lunch was very welcome.

Pictured above Circle K International President Kristen Reed, Governor Alex Allen, Lt Governor Juan Valerio and District 8 St. Lawrence Division Rep. Eric Hotchkis.

First Gentleman Peter and I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and we wish you all a healthy and happy new year!

EMPIRE STATE KIWANIANS
February 2009

3.
E-mail – Internal and External Communication

First Impressions Count! Communicating Effectively via E-mail. Writing and sending e-mail messages is easy; crafting effective messages, on the other hand, can be a challenge. You need to make sure your message not only says what you want it to say, but that it also conveys the right impression. E-mail messages are useful as a club newsletter communication, updates to members, and most of all are used to convey our messages to the media for publication.

An e-mail full of misspelled words or typos can give the media or fellow Kiwanian the impression that you’re careless, and an angry message sent in haste can jeopardize a relationship that took years to build. Knowing the limitations of e-mail can help prevent these kinds of disasters.

Grammar: All kinds of rules are broken in e-mail. Capitalization disappears. Fragments run rampant. When sending to the media, don’t break those rules! Don’t forget that the recipient evaluates you based on your message. Try to remember to dot your i’s and cross your t’s.

Spelling: Most e-mail programs offer some type of spell-check function. Use it. You want your words to carry weight, not to highlight your inattention to detail.

Tone: It’s much harder to gauge tone in e-mail than in conversation. Remember that your recipient won’t have the benefit of the case they would have in conversation. They can’t see you wink or hear you laugh, and the ironic sentiment you mean to convey might be misconstrued. This doesn’t mean you need to write form letters, but be careful.

Emoticons: Although “smileys” or “emoticons” have become hallmarks of online communication, they’re usually inappropriate in business correspondence. Emoticons are not appropriate in a press release, for example, but are most effective in internal communication with your membership.

Signature: If you use a preformatted e-mail signature with your contact information, be sure to type your name at the end of your message as well. Relying on the signature in lieu of your name can be construed as cold and impersonal.

Subject headers: Providing an accurate subject header is essential. Many people choose what to open based on the subject line; blank subject lines or subjects that have little to do with the message contents are frustrating for the reader. Include name of club when sending to the media or even to the ESK.

Think twice. Always reread your outgoing messages before you send them — especially if you’re angry. E-mail makes it easy to fire off a message you might regret later. Take a deep breath and reread the

Continued on Page 10
The Kiwanis Club of Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn Division – held its annual Children’s Christmas Party to the delight of many neighborhood and family children. Attendees shrieked at the sight of Dora, Sponge Bob, Shreck, Cat in the Hat and especially the guest of honor, Santa Claus, supplied again by club member Guy Zoda (King Henry). Event Chairman Frank DeFranco did a wonderful job as always and no one wanted to leave. President Enrico Federico made sure everyone received a gift from Santa.

BROOKLYN DIVISION - held a wonderful Christmas Party for the children of the local servicemen and women. Over 400 presents were given out by Santa, John LaGreca from the Gravesend Kiwanis Club.

The festive party was held at the base in Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn. Everyone including the service members, children and Kiwanians enjoyed themselves.

Many months of preparation went into planning of this worthy project. Brooklyn Kiwanians were proud to report the party was a great success, largely due to the congruity and hard work of BROOKLYN KIWANIS!!
The BOWLING GREEN K-KIDS started their holiday celebrations early with a Day of Holiday Service on Friday, December 12, 2008. Their day began with a toy drive collection for the John Theissen Children’s Foundation. This local organization provides holiday presents, birthday parties and wishes for sick and needy children. The school-wide toy drive was conducted in partnership with the Bowling Green Student Council and collected toys for over 50 children.

Following a photo-op and the packing up of the toys for delivery, the K-Kids rushed home from school and over to Carman Avenue for the CASA Holiday Tree lighting.

Pictured above: Bowling Green Faculty Advisors Rich Santer, Patty Hartman and the members of the K-Kids and Student Council pose in front of some of the toys collected for the John Theissen Children’s Foundation.

Pictured above: Carolers from the Bowling Green K-Kids and Key Clubbers from Division 6

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Following a photo-op and the packing up of the toys for delivery, the K-Kids rushed home from school and over to Carman Avenue for the CASA Holiday Tree lighting.

The K-Kids shared the spirit of the holiday with their community and joyfully hung ornaments made during their club meeting. After dinner, the K-Kids returned to school to meet Key Club members from W. Tresper Clarke and Division 6 for an evening of caroling. Led by K-Kids Faculty Advisor Rich Santer and Key Club Faculty Advisor Barbara Luvin, the K-Kids and Key Clubbers caroled to benefit the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center (KPTC) at North Shore-LIJ. Through the generosity of the residents living near Bowling Green the K-kids raised over $250 to support to life saving work and trauma prevention education programs of KPTC.

A Candy Cane Reindeer Ornament Made by a Member of the Bowling Green K-Kids Hangs on the CASA Community Holiday Tree.

Pictured above: Bowling Green K-Kids at the CASA Holiday Tree Lighting

Merrick Kiwanians with the help of their children, wrap gifts in Roosevelt Mall to raise holiday funds for Merrick charities. Left to right, Savannah Rockwin, Jamie Rockwin, Nancy Feldis, Toni Marie Feldis, Justin Feldis and Hannah Feldis.
Every year in early December, the Kiwanis Club of staten Island kicks off the holiday season with an annual Christmas "extravaganza," and this year was no different. On Friday, December 5th, Staten Island Kiwanians gathered at Bocelli’s Restaurant along with family and friends, to celebrate the season with an evening of dining and dancing. It was the perfect combination of good friends, good food, festive music, and a bit of “Christmas spirits,” the fantastic night that filled with holiday season cheer.

As always, Santa Claus himself made a special appearance — taking time out of his very busy schedule to provide some of his Christmas magic as only he can! Unfortunately, again this year, Past President Charlie had the “bad timing” to be in men's room or outside smoking a cigar during Santa's visit — better luck next year Charlie!

As the evening progressed, Past President Frank along with Past President Jim (aka...“Five Golden Rings”) took the opportunity to lead us in a practice run of our signature rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” in anticipation of the upcoming Christmas caroling events at the Eger and Carmel Richmond Nursing Homes.

Staten Island Kiwanians thank all who attended for helping to make this night so special and for all the toys they donated.
EMPIRE STATE KIWANIAN
February 2009

Kiwanis
November 14-16, 2008
Family Weekend
Crowne Plaza Albany
there are many clubs looking for a simple – quick fix to accomplish their Community Services for the year.

One of the simplest – quick – low manpower with high results is running a empty FOOD CART display outside the local King Kullen – Walmarts or Stop & Shop.

Simply - have your club Community Service chairperson approach the store Manager three weeks before your planned Saturday [ one time ] collection.

There are at least four different times during the year that this is useful and necessary. The Saturday before Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter or other special day that you determine are the most successful.

The store will supply the empty food cards which are placed in front of the store – Be careful not to block store access or you will lose a friend in the Manager.

Print flyers and hand them to the incoming customers of the store – * asking them to BUY ONE MORE CAN OF ANY FOOD STUFF – and leave it with you when they leave the store – Be sure to identify the beneficiary of your work – which Pantry will get the food or will it be the local Salvation Army which is usually well received.

Our club in Mineola began some years back with this idea and filled two carts – Last year we filled seven carts and could have had more - BUYING ONE CAN IS not a burden on shoppers - Multiply the shoppers on any given Saturday and you will be very surprised - You need three or four volunteers who could work two hour shifts from 8am to 6pm..

Have flyers handy – tell the shoppers who you are, and who will be getting the benefit of your gifts - SIMPLE AND QUICK FIX - no gamble involved - TRY IT !!!

Be sure to have your Kiwanis club sign prominently displayed and your members recognized with proper identification - Good luck !!!

Seyfried Continued from Page 4

message; if you’re still not sure that it’s appropriate, save it and return to it later when your emotions have settled.

Save a copy ( or copies) of your e-mail newsletters (communication within) to use for the newsletter requirement for the Public Relations patch.

Last chance to get your patch for the 2007-2008 year. Send your request to me at 2104 Willow Street, Wantagh, NY 11793. The awards will be given at the mid-year conference.

The criteria for 2008-2009 will be available February 1, 2009.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at KiwanisPH@aol.com.

New York District Website
www.kiwanis-ny.org

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**Santa Presents Gifts at Library for Children**

The Kiwanis Club of CASSADAGA VALLEY, Southwestern Division – President Florine Christy coordinated with the librarian at the Sinclairville, New York Library to have Santa Clause pay the library a visit. Santa, Cassadaga Valley board member Richard Johnson, presented each child present at the Pre-K Story Hour with a wrapped stuffed animal gift.

President Florine read Christmas stories to the children. Santa’s helped Joyce Johnson, board member, make sure Santa got all the help he needed.

A large stuffed red Clifford Dog was presented to library Director Lorie Huckelberry, to keep in the reading room for the children to enjoy.

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**Fonda-Fultonville Trick or Treats for Area Seniors**

**FONDA-FULTONVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL’S BUILDERS CLUB and the area’s Kiwanis Club joined forces to organize a trick-or-treating party at Billion Spring Adult Home.**

The Kiwanis Club donated candy for the residents to pass out to the trick-or-treating middle school students, and also helped chaperone the event.

A group of 24 middle school students arrived in costume and trick-or-treated throughout the nursing home, visiting many of the residents who wanted to participate.

After the trick-or-treating, students turned the tables on the residents and invited them down to a party in one of the dining rooms. The students baked 10 dozen cookies and brownies for the seniors to enjoy.

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**Monaco Honored**

The Kiwanis Club of FIVE TOWNS, Long Island Southwest Division – recently honored their Outgoing President Edward Monaco on December 4, 2008 The event which was held at Mezzanotte Restaurant in Hewlett was attended by over 60 members. President Monaco, through his tireless efforts raised record funds for Kiwanis charities throughout the year. He was instrumental in forming a Key Club at Lynbrook High School and also presented a Pediatric Trauma kit to a local ambulance corp. President Monaco lives in East Rockaway with his wife Janet and his four children.

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**Genesee Works CMN Phones**

DPG Justin Underwood and DPLG Joanne Underwood with Vince Lang from the Genesee Division work the phone lines for the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) radio-thon to benefit Golisano Children’s Hospital in Rochester, NY.

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**Amityville Marks Veterans Day**

The Kiwanis Club of AMITYVILLE, Suffolk West Division – During the week of Veterans Day, Amityville Memorial High School was proud to team up with the Amityville Kiwanis Club, under the leadership of President Corby Amico, to participate in the Kiwanis Club’s Field of Honor program. Twenty-two Kiwanis members, plus newly installed member Amityville Memorial High School Principal Dr. Scott Andrews, turned out in the early morning hours to erect 150 3’ x 5’ American flags in a military row on the front lawn of the high school. The purpose of this display of patriotism is to pay homage to fallen veterans and to honor those who are still with us. Each flag was affixed with a laminated yellow ribbon designating the name of the individual who purchased the flag to support the program, and the name of the veteran being remembered in this special Veterans Day commemoration.
Penfield-Perinton Holds Annual Community Awards Dinner

Kiwian Club of Penfield-Perinton Finger Lakes Division – presents funds throughout the community annually. Every year Kiwanis clubs generate funds through fundraisers and personal donations. At the end of each year the donations are given to charitable organizations and individuals in need. 100% of the funds raised are returned to the community. This year at the annual community awards dinner that was held September 23rd at Napa Gino’s Restaurant, over $20,000 was awarded to various community charities. The club was honored to have in attendance Penfield-Perinton member Senator Jim Alesi who supported the club and helped Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis raise over $16,000. A great Kiwanian, serves at the annual Kiwi Dinner, and is a major sponsor of our charity golf tournament. This year Galisano Children’s Hospital was chosen as the club’s major charity. Organizations who received funds included the Penfield-Perinton, & East Rochester food pantries. With the economy the way it is, members felt they should support these types of organizations so they can continue providing services to those in need. Birthright of Rochester also received funds. Their work is so important, they help troubled pregnant woman from the beginning and help them along the way until they are capable of raising their children on their own. This year MDA Telethon was a special one in honor of P & L’s Brent and Betty Myott’s grandson Andrew Longwell; a donation was made to the Rochester area MDA. Last year, five Fairport high school graduates lost their lives in a horrific car accident. In memory of the victims, a “Dollars for Scholars” fund was established to help graduating seniors extend their education. Penfield-Perinton Kiwanians are very pleased to be a small part of this charity. The Penfield-Perinton club received an alert from the Webster Club letting them know about 10 year-old Morgan Dematteo and her fight against a rare blood disease. The many hours in the hospital, and the many miles the family had to travel to help Morgan fight this disease took its toll on the family and its budget – both parents work two jobs and try to stay ahead of the financial burdens of a sick child. Penfield - Perinton wanted to help. Last but not least, through PP Gedy Raisin, Aura Baulyte from Vilnius, Lithuania was introduced to the club. Baulyte works with children who have communication problems, and physical or mental disabilities. Due to the nature of the children’s problems, many of the supplies, such as books and games are damaged in everyday use. The club made a contribution to help replenish the damaged supplies and equipment to help the children of Lithuania. It’s been a successful year for the Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club who continued to support their community and its children.

Brittany Presented in honor of Fred Hess

During the Bronx Westchester South Divisional Christmas Party, DPLG Angie Politano gave out another Britney Fellowship Award to Eileen Hess, in memory of her husband Fred Hess from Kiwanis Club of Parkchester.

How is your Builders Club doing?

It is more important than ever to make sure that your Kiwanian Club is involved with your Builders Club; and, that your Kiwanian Club’s Builders Club advisor is in contact with your Builders Club Faculty advisor. Anytime of the school year is an extremely busy time for any school teacher. Taking on the role of advisor to a Builders Club makes it even more so. Anything your club can do to help get the Builders Club going and keep it active, can take a tremendous burden off their Faculty advisor. Your Kiwanian Advisor could offer to help facilitate a Builders Club meeting or project. Hopefully you have trained the Builders Club’s new officers in how to run a meeting (who does it, parliamentary procedures, agendas, etc.) and by just being at the meetings, in case the officer has a problem remembering how to do it, is a tremendous help. It is in your club’s best interest to see that your Builders Club is successful this year and every year.

Kiwian has implemented a change to the Builders Club fee structure this year. Beginning in October of 2008, each Builders Club was assessed an annual club fee of $150 instead of the previous amount based upon how many members the club had. This $150 was billed to the sponsoring Kiwanian Club. This new system replaces the old system where the individual Builders Club members had to pay the membership fee. Under this new system, the club can have any number of members and not have to go through the process of collecting from each one, dropping members from the club roster and adding new members during the year.

One important side effect of this new structure is that the Kiwanian Club really must be in contact with the Builders Club or at least the Builders Club Faculty advisor. In the past, some Kiwanian Clubs have chartered a Builders Club and just let it be. When the Builders Club had problems, they were not comfortable coming to the Kiwanian sponsoring club, as they really had not developed any kind of relationship with Kiwanian and were not sure what Kiwanian could do. Your Builders Club is a wealth of opportunity for your club to help develop young leaders; to give Middle School aged children an opportunity to develop self esteem by not only working on their own projects but by helping your Kiwanian club with its projects; and, to spread the name and multiply the service Kiwanian does in your community.

When your club pays the Builders Club club fee, you complete a form that asks where the materials (Membership cards, certificates, pins, etc.) are to be sent. If you have them sent to your Kiwanian Advisor, it is the perfect opportunity to have Kiwanian members attend a Builders Club meeting and give these to the Builders Club members. The kids will remember it was a Kiwanian that gave them

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New York District Website

www.kiwians-ny.org

EMPIRE STATE KIWIAN

February 2009

11.
The Kiwanis Club of CORTLAND, Chemung Division - Rachel Sherman was presented with a "Distinguished Service Award" plaque for her outstanding devotion and service to the club. During her two years as president "2007-2008 and 2008-2009" programs were presented at each meeting, four new members were inducted, both years the New York District Governors projects were completed, Round Robins were made (two club members attending a meeting of all the Chemung Division Kiwanis Clubs during the fiscal year). The club received banner patches for their Honors banner for each program. In addition she assumed a two year position as their pin and membership certificate, and the relationship between Kiwanis Club and Builders Club members will become real to both clubs.

The dues for your Builder’s Club, was due by the end of December, 2008. However, we have been given a grace period until the end of February. After that you will have to pay the annual club fee, plus a reactivation fee. It is in the best interest of your club’s finances, to pay the annual club fee (Builders Club Dues) on time. Please check to make sure it has been done. It really is the best $150 your club will spend this year.

I wish you all the joy that comes from working with this age student. They have so much energy; they think they are grown up at this age, and you allow them to prove it, to themselves and to the community by doing service. It’s a wonderful experience; one you will not regret, I promise.

New York Attends New England Fall Conference


Rachel Sherman Honored

the Kiwanis Club of CORTLAND, Chemung Division - Rachelle Sherman was presented with a “Distinguished Service Award” plaque for her outstanding devotion and service to the club. During her two years as president “2007-2008 and 2008-2009” programs were presented at each meeting, four new members were inducted, both years the New York District Governors projects were completed, Round Robins were made (two club members attending a meeting of all the Chemung Division Kiwanis Clubs during the fiscal year). The club received banner patches for their Honors banner for each program. In addition she assumed a two year position as their pin and membership certificate, and the relationship between Kiwanis Club and Builders Club members will become real to both clubs.

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New York District Website

www.kiwanis-ny.org

Key Leader

Kim Scharoff

Kiwanis Key Leader is going strong in New York. This fall we hosted an event at the Greenkill Conference Center facilitated by Jane Erickson. The students went through life changing experiences and have learned skills that they will be able to use throughout their lives.

We have a few interesting things on the horizon for Key Leader in the Spring of 2009. We will be hosting a school-based event on Long Island at Levittown Memorial Education Center on April 25-26. This will be an overnight event with the students sleeping in the school building. We are waiting to hear from International what the registration rate will be for this event. Students will arrive Saturday morning and depart late Sunday afternoon. Transportation from a local railroad station (LIRR) can be arranged. The program will be facilitated by one of the certified facilitators of the program. We will be looking for chaperones to spend the night with the students at the school. Start looking for your students now because we are sure this event will sell out quickly. Registration will go live early in 2009.

In addition, we will be hosting an event May 15-17 at Camp Stella Maris in Livingston (outside Rochester). This will be the 4th year that we are holding the event there and we are looking forward to being able to use some of the new facilities at the camp. Registration for this event will also go live early in 2009. Now is the time to start looking for students to attend. In addition, we will need chaperones for this event as well.

For those clubs that are not near either of those areas and wondering how they can get involved, there are events in northern New Jersey and Massachusetts that may be closer to you. There is no reason why you cannot sponsor a student to go to an event outside of New York. All of the Key Leader programs are facilitated by certified facilitators and cover the same curriculum. All I ask is that you notify me if you are sponsoring a student to an event outside the district so that we can recognize you (there is no way for me to know otherwise).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at kscharoff@yahoo.com or via phone at 516-432-0850.

Youth Services

Ed Stoddard

Governor Doreen Pellittieri has asked me to Chair the Committee on Youth Services for the 2008-2009 year. In an attempt to learn more about this committee and to gain insights, I have been in contact with chairs for the following: Action Club/ Debra Rothman, Builders Club/ Joanne Underwood, Circle K/ John Keegan, K – Kids/ Mickie Leamey, Governor’s Project/ Rick Santer, Human and Spiritual Values/ Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse, Key Club/ Andrew Lowenberg, Key Leader/ Kim Scharoff and Young Children Priority One/ Rev. Kenneth Nelson.

Additionally, I have contacted Kiwanis International and have received the following information as it relates to the Committee on Youth Services. The description reads as follows:

“The Committee on Youth Services shall study, devise and suggest methods and means to the clubs to assist boys and girls to adjust themselves to their environment and become adapted to the social, economic, and moral demands they may encounter. This committee shall develop ways and means of assisting in the guidance of youth in the selection of proper and suitable vocations, as well as other areas which the committee may deem pertinent. It shall endeavor to inspire the clubs to an increasing participation in these activities and shall make proposals to the clubs of means whereby such purposes may be accomplished.”

Having attended the Tri- K weekend at the Crowne Plaza in Albany on November 14 and 15, it is most obvious that the work which the committees, listed in the opening paragraph, are doing in the New York District is in line with the goals of the Committee on Youth Services. As I listened to and responded to the words and comments which came from the Governors of the New York Key Club, / Amy Lorenz and the New York Circle K Club/ Mike Ott, as well as the comments and reflections from International Key Club President Kia-Rogers Albertson and International President of Circle K, Kristen Reed I could only think of a “Perfect Tribute” which is attributed to a comment a little girl made to President Abraham Lincoln after his Gettysburg Address. She paid tribute to him and her comments brought joy and pleasure to the President at that most trying time in his life. The comments we heard brought pleasure and tribute to all.

Governor Doreen had selected self esteem for her project for the year. Key Club Governor Amy said at one point during the weekend, “Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement”. Governor Doreen had to be pleased as she observed the actions and the reports that were coming from all quarters as the Tri K weekend progressed. More to the point, each and every Kiwanis Club that sponsors one or more of the Kiwanis Family entities should be most proud. Fortunately, not all clubs are able to attend events such as the Tri K Weekend. Therefore, members of
Empire Club
Joe Eppolito

Empire Club – Adding To the Legacy of the NY District Kiwanis Foundation

The Empire Club allows Kiwanians and friends of the NY District Kiwanis Foundation to make a long-range gift to further help children that we serve through our District Foundation. It can be through an up front cash donation of at least $2,000, donated life insurance policy, stocks, bonds and/or any other bequest that you so desire to earmark. The information is kept confidentially in the NYD Kiwanis Foundation Office.

You can also designate the NYD Kiwanis Foundation as a beneficiary (or partial beneficiary) to any asset that you earmark at your passing.

Remember, joining the Empire Club allows you to make a long-range gift to the District Foundation and be recognized at all District Conventions with a reception in your honor, a plaque, pin and a banner patch for your club’s banner. NYD Kiwanis Foundation President Sal Anelli and I (or an area Foundation Board member) would be honored to make the presentation at a Division Council Meeting, NYD Mid-Winter Conference or the District Convention in August.

We have grown from 30 members to 34 since November, 2007 and hope that you would consider the NY District Foundation in your estate plan as bequests will reduce your estate tax liability. Check with your financial planner, who can assist you in this manner.

Feel free to call me – 315-449-3000, ext 358, or email me: Pepster@aol.com with your questions, suggestions, concerns or any other comments that you have about the program.

Please think of your NY District Kiwanis Foundation in your estate planning... kids benefit from your generosity!

Stoddard
Continued from Page 11

the local clubs might not have an appreciation for the total good that is being accomplished at the New York District level by sponsored organizations. Key Club and Circle K committee members reports make us extremely proud and deeply satisfied.

Having made these observations, and in keeping with the challenges of the Committee on Youth Services, it is important to note, that there is always more that can be accomplished. We are aware of goals which organizations such as America’s Promise, the Assets Program, The Center for the 4th and 5th R’s, Lucky U and the work of Dr. Phil Vincent have in terms impacting lives and addressing concerns that: individuals, families, schools, and communities face.

As the year progresses, there might be opportunities for others, who are interested, to join and share thoughts and ideas as to how more can be done to accomplish the objectives that are outlined in the section relating to the Committee on Youth Services. We are ready to work with all of you.

Elmira Aktion Club Seeks Opportunities to Give Back

As reprinted from Stargazette.com
CLEARY SPEAKING BY JOHN F. CLEARY NOVEMBER 22, 2008

One of the great things about working for a newspaper for a long time, maybe the greatest thing, is the regular cast of characters you get to know.

They’re the people you keep running into while out on assignment or looking for things to write about. One of the hardest parts of leaving the newspaper was falling out of contact with some of those ordinary folks who kept turning up.

Among my favorites was Eric Lindsay, the guy who moved to Elmira, then realized he looked just like Mark Twain. I’d only written about Eric once or twice, but we bumped into each other a dozen times over the last few years. I always enjoyed finding Chemung County Historian Archie Kieffer in unexpected places. Archie, with his informal, encyclopedic knowledge of the way things used to be, is one of the Twin Tiers’ greatest treasures.

But maybe my happiest unexpected meetings were with Peggy Eastburn. I’d find Peggy often at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Elmira when I visited there to cover events. Peggy was a volunteer there for some time and has volunteered in other ways around Elmira. For me, her irrepressible cheerfulness has always been an uplifting bonus to working at the paper.

Peggy finds ways to contribute to the community despite her disability, which restricts her to a motorized wheelchair and to limited use of her hands and arms. It doesn’t restrict her quick mind or her friendly voice. She is a natural organizer and motivator, is politically minded (an Eric Massa election bumper sticker adorns her wheelchair) and bumper sticker adorns her wheelchair) and her quick mind or her friendly voice.

She is a natural organizer and motivator, is politically minded (an Eric Massa election bumper sticker adorns her wheelchair) and a drive to contribute.

The wonderful thing about Peggy is she is not alone. Wednesday night, I had the pleasure of meeting her colleagues with the Aktion Club of Elmira. It’s made up of people with physical or developmental disabilities brought together by their sincere desire to help others. Led by a board of directors from their own ranks — Tim Tompkins is president this year — the group seeks opportunities to give back to the communities that have helped care for them.

Most members are residents of homes operated by Chemung ARC, the Cerebral Palsy and Handicapped Children’s Association of Chemung County and other agencies. Others are disabled community members living on their own. They are advised by representatives from the agencies who assist people with disabilities and sponsored by the Elmira Kiwanis Club.

Pellittieri
Continued from Page 3

your participation.

Thank you for your commitment to Kiwanis and I hope to see you at our Mid Winter Conference!
Key Club Lt. Governor Robin Konstein presents checks totaling $3,200 to NYD Kiwanis Foundation Board President Sal Anelli. This money was raised by Key Club - Division 6 at a Stay Awake-athon at which over 125 Key Clubbers were sponsored to stay up all night while engaging in service projects and having fun.

Key Club Raises $3200 for Kamp Kiwanis

Governor Mike Ott Reports on Circle K

by Circle K Governor Mike Ott

The New York District of Circle K wound down its fall semester, but that doesn’t mean that our service is stopping as well. From October 31 – November 2 about 100 members of CKI gathered together in Lake George for our 27th annual NY Speaking Conference. The weekend was full of workshops, fellowship, and service. We were also honored to be joined by the Mohawk Lieutenant Governor, Governor-Elect David, and of course Governor Doreen and her husband Peter. It was a great way for all of the CKI members in attendance to see that we are truly a part of the Kiwanis Family. Later in November the Circle K District Board joined with the Kiwanis and Key Club District Boards at our annual Tri-K Board Meeting. The weekend was full of K-Family spirit and service as we made blankets to donate to the KPTC’s. Also, at the Circle K District Board Meeting we voted to make all Circle K Kiwanis Advisors our convention honorees for our 47th annual District Convention from March 27-29, 2009 in Albany. The District Board felt that our Kiwanis Advisors are always there to support our clubs and that they never truly get the recognition they deserve and we saw this as the perfect opportunity to thank them for everything that they do for us.

Throughout November Circle K’ers also worked towards the “Making Arts a Reality for Kids” season of our “Seasons of Service” District Project. The month featured daily craft project ideas that members could put together to give to children to help show them the importance of the arts in their lives. Now that the holidays are over, we’re turning our attention to our new season: “We are looking forward to a successful future working with children and the needy. Finally, our Circle K clubs will be meeting on a regular basis this Spring Semester which began this past week (late January.) I encourage you to all reach out to your Circle K members and see if you could maybe put them in contact with a Kiwanis Club from their area. On behalf of the entire New York District Board, I’d like to thank you all for your continued dedication and support for Circle K.

Key Club LL Governor Robin Konstein presents checks totaling $3200 to NYD Kiwanis Foundation Board President Sal Anelli. This money was raised by Key Club - Division 6 at a Stay Awake-athon at which over 125 Key Clubbers were sponsored to stay up all night while engaging in service projects and having fun.

Continued from Page 16

installment, thank you Patchouche Club.

Thank you to Key Club and Circle K Clubs for all their efforts in raising money for the Kamp. I thank President Emeritus Lindy Marrazzo whose friend Herb of Champion Construction donated truckloads of material and equipment we desperately need at the Kamp. I thank board members Joe Battista and Anthony Merendino for their continued commitment of going to the Kamp whenever something needs to be done.

I thank Joe & Julie Weiss who have made Kamp Kiwanis part of their lives and are committed to raising funds. Recently Joe was able to secure an anonymous donor to have a matching funds program for up to $15,000. Thank you everyone in the district who continues to support Kamp Kiwanis and all of the children that benefit from it. Of course, it goes without saying that I thank my family for the support they give me and the Kamp. I thank my daughter Melissa, who recently became a New York Times Best Selling author with her book, “Harry A History”. We raffled off an autographed copy at Tri-K and raised a lot of money. I’m sure we’ll have one at Mid-Winter. I thank all the Kiwanians who, in the future, will respond to the needs of Kamp Kiwanis especially with the upcoming “Kamp Baby Shower” at Mid-Winter.

In these economic times it’s harder than ever to raise money for worthwhile causes, that’s why I believe on the importance of saying “THANK YOU”
Safe Kids Coalition & KPTC Hold Safety Education Day

Preventing Accidental Injury
Rosemarie C. Ennis, EMT Director, Public Health Education Dept. of Professional & Public Health Education Director, New York State Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters presented Key Club attendees with a Trainer’s Guide at the Injury Prevention/ Safety Education Day held December 2008, sponsored by the Nassau County Safe Kids Coalition and the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, Schneider Children’s Hospital at North Shore.

Director for the NYS Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters Rosemarie Ennis welcomed guests to the first New York State Key Club Injury Prevention / Safety Education Day. She offered, “Listen closely to today’s presenters, read your Trainer’s Guide and spread today’s message and information within your home town. Consider becoming involved within your county and local community in keeping our State’s young citizens safe.

Through the combined efforts of our State’s Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters and their members (hospitals, government agencies, corporations, public health and advocacy organizations, private groups and community citizens), New York State has seen remarkable achievements in preventing and reducing childhood injuries and deaths due to preventable accidents.

From 1985 to 2000, there has been 55.3% decline of unintentional injury/death rate among children ages 14 and under in New York State - one of the most dramatic declines ever seen in a children’s health issue. However, despite this tremendous progress, accidental injury remains the number one killer in young children in the United States today. These facts underscore both the value of what we have done and the need to continue doing what we do - educate adults and children, create safe environments, conduct research and advocate for effective laws for our young. Every New York State resident has a role in helping to prevent all types of accidental childhood injuries.

Ennis asked that you join with your State’s Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters in building our partnership with Safe Kids Worldwide. Make a commitment to place a priority on childhood injury prevention. She encouraged all to contact your local county Safe Kids Coordinator, Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services and help them do whatever you can to create a New York where all our children are truly “Safe Kids.”

Bicycle Helmet Safety facilitators present plan for teaching safety to youngsters. Key Clubbers gained an understanding of the importance of wearing a bike helmet, how to choose and fit a bike helmet properly, and they became aware of the damage that might be caused to the brain if an accident should occur to riders without a helmet.

Standing left to right: NYD Circle K Family Relations Chair Rickie Santer, discusses Circle K involvement in KPTC with KPTC Foundation Board President DPG Joe Corace. Seated: Adelphi Secretary Annie Benzie, Adelphi Treasurer Lauren Schneider, LJ Circle K LL Governor Christina Boquin and Adelphi member Angela Allegretti add their support to this worthwhile goal.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Rosemarie Ennis, North Shore University Hospital staff and all the Kiwanis helping-hands who put together this important program – Injury Prevention/ Safety Education Day. We had a tremendous turn-out from many Key Clubs throughout New York. They are listed below and I want to commend them for their service and dedication to keeping kids safe and healthy.

The workshop which spanned the day included, Fire/Burn Injury Prevention, Poison Prevention, Bicycle Helmet Safety, Falls/Playground Safety, Pedestrian/ Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety and Child Car Seat/Seat Belt Safety training. The educators did a great job instructing Key Clubbers about how to go into our communities and share the information they learned. This was a very valuable experience for all who attended. Thank you.

NYD Key Clubs and Circle K’s are Represented at KPTC/Safe Kids Training

**KEY CLUBS**
Division 3
Huntington HS Key Club
Division 4
Great Neck North HS Key Club
North Shore HS Key Club
Wheatley HS Key Club
Division 5
Calhoun HS Key Club
Farmingdale HS Key Club
Kennedy HS Key Club
Massapequa HS Key Club
Division 6
Division Avenue HS Key Club
East Meadow HS Key Club
G. C. Tech Key Club
Island Trees HS Key Club
Uniondale HS Key Club
W Tresper Clarke HS Key Club
West Hempstead HS Key Club
Division 7
Blades HS Key Club
Oceanside HS Key Club
Division 8
Bayside HS Key Club
Benjamin N Cardozo HS Key Club
Francis Lewis HS Key Club
Forrest Hills HS Key Club
Division 9
Brooklyn Tech HS Key Club
Midwood HS Key Club
Division 10
Bronx HS of Science Key Club
High School for Math, Science and Engineering Key Club
High School for American Studies at Lehman College Key Club
Hunter College HS Key Club
John Dewey HS Key Club
Stuyvesant HS Key Club

**CIRCLE K**
Adelphi University Circle K
NY University Circle K
Queens College Circle K
Wagner College Circle K
(In the Process of Chartering)

**KPTC President**
Joseph L. Corace

EMPIRE STATE KIWANIAN
February 2009

15

(1-1) KPTC Board President, Joe Corace and KPTC Foundation Board Service Leadership Liaison Rich Santer present a KPTC Service Leadership Fellowship to Safe Kids and KPTC Director Rosemarie Ennis, in recognition of all her tireless efforts on behalf of children and their safety, with help from Key Club LT. Gov. Robin Kornstein.
The Bowling Green Elementary School K-Kids gave up some of their candy this Halloween to collect money to help Kamp Kiwanis recover from the flooding and tornado that damaged the camp earlier this year.

While a newly chartered club, the K-Kids were familiar with classmates who had spent a summer week at Kamp Kiwanis. FACulty Advisor and East Meadow Kiwanis Club President Rich Santer was surprised how quickly the members of the K-Kids opted to Trick-or-Treat for Kamp Kiwanis over UNICEF and the other options presented at their first ever general membership meeting in September. "It seemed clear that the personal connection the K-Kids had with their own classmates being able to go to Kamp Kiwanis overshadowed UNICEF's well-known orange boxes. The vote wasn't even close," commented the surprised advisor.

In just a single day the 27 members raised $325 for the Kamp. The Board of Directors decided to donate the first $200 through the Tony Palangi Service Leadership Fellowship program. The Board selected President Emma Murphy, Treasurer Regina Hickey, Director Tori Kalberer, Member Anthony Dunn and FACulty Advisor Rich Santer as the recipients of the fellowships. Tori and Anthony raised the most money.

The remaining $125 was donated through the brick program. The K-Kids are proud to have their club placed on the wall of Governor's Hall.

The Bowling Green K-kids is proudly sponsored by East Meadow Kiwanis.

FDN President Sal's Daughter Becomes A New York Times Best-Selling Author

"Harry, A History," is my first book, a journalistic memoir about my time inside the Harry Potter phenomenon. It tells the story of how a small children's book became the best-selling series of all time, but it also speaks to a larger story about how the people and things we love can change us if we let them.

Through Harry Potter and the community I found through my Web site, The Leaky Cauldron, I discovered talents I didn't know I had and confidence that had previously been hidden. I wrote the book over the year of the publication of the seventh and last Harry Potter novel.

I was able to write "Harry, A History," for many reasons, most of them having to do with hard work and luck, but also because my father, Sal Anelli, a longtime Kiwanian, has taught me so much about the hard work required to achieve accomplishment.