

KIWANIGRAM

The monthly newsletter of the

KIWANIS CLUB *of* SKIDAWAY



FEBRUARY 2008

President's Corner **Ever Onward**

Erv Hietbrink

These days it's impossible to avoid being bombarded with news of political promise, campaign rhetoric and pundits hoisting upon us opinion of what and who is best for America. Economist and other "talking heads" seem intent on offering opinion as to whether or not our country is in a recession and what is likely to happen to energy costs. Frankly, it's hard to be optimistic when one is continuously being exposed to mostly bad news.



As a service club we can do little to change that environment. We're stuck with it. Our mission is to continuously move forward on the local and international goals that we (and others) have set for ourselves. So far this year the result of our fund raising efforts – the **Com-**

munity Partner and **Business Partner** programs, the **Chili Cook Off** and our Foundation appeal have come short of our expectation. Does that mean that any or all of them were unsuccessful? My answer is a resounding "**absolutely not!**" In each case the energy, effort and intelligence that we brought to the task were our best and it should be no surprise to anyone when we see results impacted by a down or uncertain economy.

What do we do from here? First we make sure that our expectations are realistic. Then we try to make the upcoming **Pancake Breakfast** and the spring **Concert on the Green** the best that they can be. In short, we move forward – **Ever Onward**. The local
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Court-Appointed Special ***Advocates for Children*** **(CASA)**

by Reneé Gresham-Crawford
Executive Director
Savannah CASA

The CASA movement began over 30 years ago in Seattle, Washington at the urging of a judge who felt that he needed an independent, objective perspective to help him make decisions about the fate of a child in deprivation cases. There are now over 900 CASA programs across the United States.

The program in Savannah is fortunate to have two wonderful Kiwanians as CASA volunteers: Allen Berger and Mary Hull. They both literally hit the ground running. Let me say a few words about them.

Since Allen became a CASA two years ago, he has been assigned three families. The first family involved two teens and Allen visited the father's home and other locales and everyone agreed that it would be in the teens' best interest to live with their grandmother who has a business in Savannah.

The second family had eight children and a single mother. Allen visited the family a number of times in Hitch Village. The five school-age children, ages 6 through 10, all went to Spencer Elementary School. When he visited the school he would talk with all their teachers. He made sure the children were well-groomed and their uniforms and shoes fit properly. If any of the children were not prepared for school, he would bring his concern to the attention of appropriate authorities and the problem was usually resolved. The children enjoyed a happy Christmas season with
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GIVING

by Gene McDonald

You know these cold and dreary days give you a lot of time to think. Sometimes you think about good things and other times problems come to the forefront. Of course our business experience has drilled into us that problems are opportunities for us to find a solution.

I've been reflecting on my duties as Vice President of Fund Raising. So far in my term we haven't been doing as well as we expected and not even as well as last year! I keep asking myself what can we do differently to get the money so needed by our kids in Chatham County. Your continuing support of the Chili Cook-off, the Pancake Breakfast and the Concert on the Green is much appreciated. We will continue to work to keep these relevant, exciting and appealing to all residents of the Landings. Selling a few more tickets or raffle chances than we normally do will help a little. We may be fewer but our market is even larger than in the past.

PLEASE MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT!!!!

The Sponsor (Trifecta) Program has brought us a lot of cash in the past but this year it has been particularly tough, as the economy isn't cooperating. If you are one of the Sponsor Solicitors, please don't give up - push hard, our kids need us. Don't worry about arbitrary dates, the Sponsor program should be a year round event. Every little bit helps - don't take no for an answer, get those businesses to give something. I know you can do it!!!

Finally, our Foundation appeal.

This year you gave a lot less money than last year (about \$1200 or 30%). I don't know what this means. Is it the economy? Or how we asked? What ever it is, I'm asking you to please search your heart and come up with a little more for our kids. It may not count for last year's taxes but it will make you feel a lot better.

I know that this is a little different type of article than you normally see in our Kiwanigram, but the times are apparently different. If any of you have any different suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks Gene McDonald

Welcome New Member

The Club is pleased to welcome Joseph M Kurtz (Joe) to it's membership. Joe had been a member previously, and Jim Chapman convinced him to re-join. Joe and his wife, Bambi, moved to the Landings from Coral Gables, Florida, and live at 8 Beck's Retreat. Joe attended the University of Miami, achieving a degree in Accounting. Joe continues to work part time, and also is interested in model railroading.

President's Corner (from page 1)

agencies that we serve need our help more than ever and the kids of Savannah deserve our best efforts.

Directors Meeting

Notes by Dick Shomaker

Board of Directors Briefs January-08

Mr. Hietbrink asked the Directors to approve a contribution to Kiwanis International of \$1400, the same as last year (he announced this gift at the January 17th Breakfast meeting). He said the Club is not recruiting enough new members to meet our year end membership goals, and asked all Directors to enlist at least one new member, and will emphasize this need to all members.

Member's Voluntary Contributions to the Club's Foundation was below last year's amount, and it's not too late to help, and it's Tax Deductible.

Mr. Wright, V.P. Services, is asking all agency contacts, and chairs to help determine our Club's impact in numbers of children served. When collected, he believes all will be surprised at the number that our Club helps.

Suggestions for Speakers

* * * * *

Who do you know that would be a good speaker for a Kiwanis meeting? Or maybe you don't know them, but would still like to hear them speak at one of our meetings.

Please give 2007-2008 Speaker Chairman Tom Sharp a call (598-5422), or send him an e-mail (tmsharp@bellsouth.net). Your suggestions will be welcome.

CASA (from page 1)

presents bought and wrapped by a group of women from the Landings. Allen delivered the presents one night after dark a few days before Christmas to their home a year ago.

The third family Allen was assigned to had four children who were living with their mother until her death. Then they went to live in the Greenbriar Children's Center. On each birthday Allen brought the children presents: birthday cards, books, and cameras with an offer to develop the films and return with photos. The oldest youngster was at the Adult Educational Center and his sisters were at nearby DeRenne Middle School. The youngest was at Hodge Elementary School. When Allen visited the youngest he would talk with him about various matters including bullying and how to get along with others. He brought him books of poetry and read some of the poetry to him in the principal's office. He also gave him the popular Guinness Book of Records.

For all four children in the last family Allen gave each a book signed by Sharon Draper, former United States Teacher of

the Year. Allen knows Sharon, who used to teach high school English in a Cincinnati Public School. She has also written best-selling books for young adults. Allen emailed her, gave her the names of each of the children, and she signed four different books she wrote and gave to each of the young people in the family.

Mary has been a CASA for six months and has had numerous cases during this short period of time. She has worked diligently on her case involving a 5-year-old being placed with his grandparents in Korea. Although Mary faced several local and international obstacles, she has continued her efforts. The best interest of this child is paramount and keeps her focused on a successful outcome for this child.

Both Mary and Allen spend a great deal of time not only in schools but also at Juvenile Court.

They prepare reports for the judge who then calls upon them in court to determine if they wish to add any additional comments in behalf of the children. They also cooperate with the Department of Family and Children Services. Periodically they attend in-services such as one this month on ways of treating young victims who become predators. These in-services, as well as training for volunteers, take place at the CASA offices in the United Way Building in downtown Savannah.

CASA volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary things to make a difference in the lives of children.

For more information or to become a CASA, contact Renee Gresham-Crawford at 447-8908 or info@savannahcasa.org

Together we can make a difference one child at a time.



That old Model A

By Dana Taylor

Come on, Jack. It's time to get rid of that old heap!

Yes, I'm talking about that precious 1928 Ford Model A Roadster you bought for \$200 when we were in high school. Two hundred dollars plus I don't know how many thousand hours of blood, sweat and labor you put into restoring it.

It was a junker when you bought it, but it looks great now. Of course, a lot of the parts came from J. C. Whitney.

I remember when you finished restoring it. During Christmas break in 1948. You and I spent five hours the day after Christmas riding all over western Pennsylvania in the freezing cold. Those damned side curtains were next to worthless! I think it was colder inside the car than out. Remember? We stopped at a drug store for hot chocolate to thaw out before we headed back home.

And when you took it to school? Every girl in Penn High School wanted a ride. They called it "that cute little car." Man, you were suddenly a very popular guy!

But Jack, you really look sort of silly driving it around these days. You're safer in your golf cart, and your grandkids look at you like you're some kind of weirdo when you offer them a ride in the rumbleseat.

Besides. Mary Jane would really like to convert the second garage into a studio for her painting.

Don't kid yourself. It would be easy to sell. Just take out a free member's non-commercial ad in the Kiwanigram. Some Kiwanians are even old enough to remember what a rumbleseat is.

Chatham Scenes

This could very easily be one of your photos. See page 6.



What may be Chatham County's most famous landmark, the light house station on Tybee Island has been guiding mariners to a safe arrival in the Savannah River for over 270 years. This photo was taken on a mostly rainy Saturday afternoon in early September. The clouds did not exactly part for the photographer, but the downpour eased enough to let him out of the car to take this photo. A little darkroom tweaking also helped.

Meade ETX-60AT Digital Telescope w/ Tripod – free to first calling Kiwanian whose kid or grandkid would treasure such an item – 598-8065

Interclub February 20, 2008

Visit the Youth Challenge Academy, the Liberty County Kiwanis Club, and the Fort Stewart Museum. Leave from Skidaway Island Methodist Church at 9:00a.m. Arrive at Ft. Stewart YCA at 10:00a.m. Car poolers expected back at Methodist Church at about 3:30 p.m.

Kiwanis Calendar of Coming Events

- February 7** **Membership Meeting - Speaker, Jim Lewis, Executive Director**, The Old Savannah City Mission.
- February 9** **Pancake Breakfast** - Skidaway Presbyterian Church.
- February 14** **Membership Meeting - Speaker, Michael Horner, Financial Planner**, The Fair Tax.
- February 16** **Division 22 President's Rally**, at the Vidalia Community Center.
- February 21** **Membership Meeting - Speaker, Marolyn Overton, Board Director, Park Place Outreach**, The Mission of Park Place.
- February 23** **Georgia District Mid-Winter Training Conference**, Wesleyan College, Macon.
- February 28** **Membership Meeting - Speaker, Judge Patricia Stone**, Chatham County Juvenile Court.
- April 28** **Blood Drive** - (Monday) 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Skidaway Island Methodist Church.
- May 4** **Concert on the Green** - Landings Association Athletic Field.
- June 26-28** **2008 Kiwanis International Convention**, Orlando, FL
- Aug. 15-17** **Georgia District of Kiwanis Convention**, Peachtree City, GA

Pancakes, Y'all!

Thanks to all of you who have already sold your tickets and volunteered to help with the Pancake Breakfast! We are on the last leg now, with the big day coming up February 9. Please continue to sell tickets and tell your friends about the event -- we want a great big crowd this year! And don't forget to sell raffle tickets. The raffle is an important part of the fund-raising, and we have **great raffle prizes** this year.

- Toshiba Satellite Widescreen Notebook Computer

Includes 2 – 3 hours of set up instructions from our Landings computer expert Bill McBrine.

- Overnight at Mansion on Forsyth Park

- Meals at Cosentino's Trattoria, at Kasey's Grille, the Driftaway Café, and the Bonefish Grill

- Golf lessons with various pros.

If you haven't found a job as yet the day of the event, please contact Chris Aiken or Ron Weber. We can match your skills with a job. Let's make this our most successful Pancake Breakfast ever!

Chris and Ron



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The monthly newsletter of the

KIWANIS CLUB OF SKIDAWAY, 600 Landings Way
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DANA TAYLOR, Editor

Web site, <http://www.kiwanisofskidaway.com> -
(Members, Contact Richard Watters or Melissa
Emery for ID and Password)Officers and Directors, Committee Chairs and
Other Contacts:**Officers:**

President - Erv Hietbrink
 President Elect - Gary Bocard
 VP-Services - Bill Wright
 VP-Fund Raising - Gene McDonald
 VP-Marketing - Melissa Emery
 VP/Recording Secretary - Richard Shomaker
 VP/Administrative Secretary - Richard Watters
 Treasurer - Harry Krogh
 Past President - Keith Glenn

Directors - all officers plus the following:

terms expiring 2008

Don Kipp
 Robert Caswell

terms expiring 2009

Gary Brewer
 Frank Zugel

Terms expiring 2010

Mark Forssell
 Dave Fox

Board Advisor

Tom Sharp

Committee Chairs and Other contacts:

Administration:

Attendance Reception - Jack Hart
 Attendance Records - Gary Brewer
 Awards - Pat Cummiskey
 District/Division Reports - Frank Zugel
 Inter-Club - Jim Chapman
 Kiwanigram - Dana Taylor
 Kiwanis Education/ Orientation - Keith Glenn
 Membership (New) - Tom Rood
 Membership (Retention) - Keith Glenn
 Programs/Speakers - Tom Sharp
 Legends of Golf - Dave Smith, Jim Giorgio

Fund raising events:

Chili Cook-Off - Jim O'Malley, Jim Beurle
 Concert on the Green - Gary Hughes
 Pancake Breakfast - Chris Aiken, Ron Weber
 Corporate Fund Raising - Emerson Ham, Jeff
 Heeder, John Hamson

Services—Community:

Community in Schools - Joyce Glenn
 Dollars for Doers - Bruce Powley
 Habitat for Humanity - Frank Guy, Bob Yeomans
 Interfaith Hospitality Network - Mark Forssell
 Juvenile Court Citizen Review Panels - Chuck
 Ortman

Kids Café - Gary Bocard
 Library for the Blind - Dave Wyland

Med Bank - Emmet Casey

Mediation Center - Dick Watters

Outstanding Citizen - Sid Carr

Pediatric Oncology Support - Pete Liprot

Red Cross Blood Drive - Chris Britten

Salvation Army - Ron Morris

Social Apostolate - Bob Egan

Telfair Museum - Jack Neises

Village Library - Jim Chapman

Services - Young Children:

Fishing Program - Tom Rood

Greenbriar - Melissa Emery

Early Childhood Education - Tom Clark

Services - Youth:

Bethesda Home - Dave Smith

Children's Advocacy Center - Skip Salus

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

(CASA) - Allen Berger, Mary Hull

Hesse Bears - Emmet Casey

Junior Achievement - Dave Cooper

Mighty 8th AF Museum - Jim Keller

Notre Dame Academy - Gary Bocard

Park Place Outreach - Jack Hart

Special Olympics - Robert Haas

St. Paul's Academy - Bill Trice

Youth Challenge Academy - Jack Huber

SPONSORED YOUTH PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Bethesda Key Club - Chuck Owen

SCAD Circle K - Dianne Franz

NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT

West Chatham - Hazel Brown, Dick Shomaker

HUMAN & SPIRITUAL SERVICE

Human & Spiritual Service Programs - Jim

Giddens

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

Auditor - Roger Nord

Board Advisor - Hazel Brown

Club Historian - Martin Otto

Legal Counsel - Bob Schivera

Marketing and Web Page - Melissa Emery

Publicity - Tom Rood

Photography - Melissa Emery; Martin Otto,

Emeritus

Safety Coordinator - Jack Sherrill

Social and Trips - Dave Fox

Song Leader - Dave Wyland

Sunshine - Gwen Leathley

50/50 Drawing - Sid Carr

Kiwanis Club of Skidaway Meeting Assignments for February

Breakfast Meeting Set Up and Greeters -
Melissa Emery & James DiGiorgio

Song Leader - Dave Wyland

Invocation -

Feb. 7 - - Kurt Faxon

Feb. 14 - - Melissa Emery

Feb. 21 - - Jay Ahrens

Feb. 28 - - Dave Fox

Speaker Chair - Tom Sharp

Chatham Scenes

Have you taken any interesting photos of things, places, activities in Chatham County? Perhaps you would share them with your fellow Kiwanigram readers. (With full credit to you as the photographer.) Space permitting (and there is almost always space) the Kiwanigram would be pleased to give you a place to show your photos.

Mail them to Dana Taylor, hand them to Taylor at a meeting or e-mail them to danamt@bellsouth.net.

MEMBER NON-COMMERCIAL ADS

PLAYERS FOR FRIDAY GOLF GROUP

Looking for players to join friendly Friday Golf Group. Play from club tees, current handicap range from single digit to 18. Join five other Kiwanians plus some non-believers. Contact Keith Glenn @ 598-9483

Irish America!

The Savannah Choral Society will present "Irish America!", a concert of Irish and American music, on Thursday, March 13, at the Lucas Theatre. Irish soprano from Riverdance and Lord of the Dance, Anne Buckely, will join the chorus for this fun and light-hearted concert of folk and popular tunes from both sides of the Atlantic. Tickets are \$30, \$25, and \$20, and are available from Melissa Emery and Erv Hietbrink.

FOR SALE: (compatible COMPUTER components)

***DESKTOP GATEWAY COMPUTER** (purchased in Jan 2000), PENTIUM III, 500 MHz, WITH WINDOWS 98s, QUICKEN AND WORKS SUITES, CD BURNER, 2 USB PORTS, AUXILIARY SPEAKERS, KEYBOARD, \$150

***SAMSUNG 17" LCD MONITOR**, 1280 X 1024 RESOLUTION, MODEL 770TFT, PARALLEL PORT CONNECTOR, \$200

***HEWLETT-PACKARD COLOR PRINTER**, MODEL 720C DESKJET, PARALLEL PORT CONNECTOR, \$50

Tom Clark - 598-9723 - tasclark@aol.com