



CHAPTER H

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

**Seasons Greetings!**

“H”appenings

DECEMBER 16, 2007

CHAPTER “H” ONCHOS

Gyurnek Family's Winter Wonderland

By Jim Garner

“Clark Griswold doesn’t live here!” should be posted along side the toy soldiers guarding the lighted archway of this Schaumburg home. If you haven’t visited the house at 1516 S. Blackhawk Drive, then you are really missing a true holiday delight. When you visit you may even spy the *Woodfield Trolley* stopping by with a load of holiday passengers disembarking for a photo or two.

The home is that of long-time Chapter H members Joel and Carolyn Gyurnek.



The Gyurneks have been decorating their home in a modest fashion since their now grown children were very small. Joel said that things started to get “really nuts” about 6 years ago when the kids read about a home decorating contest in the *Schaumburg Review* newspaper.

Through the years, Joel and his son Nathaniel, hand built his most treasured

pieces including a gingerbread house, Santa’s workshop, a church with a working bell (which he’s reserved operation after 3 years to special times due to a neighbor’s complaint), a stand for the choir, a stable to shelter the holy family and other novelties. The stable houses the oldest pieces in the family’s display.

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Special “H”appenings

Happy Birthday!!

Paulette Brenton	5-Jan
Bruce Hirsch	5-Jan
Kitty Levin	10-Jan
Beverly Chapman	17-Jan
Carol Goins	17-Jan
Quinn Schaefer	21-Jan
Larry Thurman	22-Jan
Nancy Greco	25-Jan
Lorri Berthelot	29-Jan
Ken Kaya	29-Jan



Happy Anniversary!!

Russ & Carol Prichard 28-Dec



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE

by Les Chapman

Well, this will make four months since I took over as your chapter Rep. Guess what, the more you try to change something, the more it stays the same. I have to ask myself why I am trying to get more people in the club, when I like the ones we have.

I know a club that doesn't grow, runs out of ideas and new places. That is why we are always looking for ideas from people that walk in a different path than we do. God help us. (We need change).

If you have looked at the newsletter lately, you can see that change has started. Please check out our web site,

www.christmasinjuly.org (WOW). One or two can't carry the whole club. I know we have *good* members; they just need to step up and say I can do that for you.

We are looking forward to 2008 with hopes of a new and different year for chapter H. At the beginning of January we are forming a ride committee to create the calendar for the year 2008. We will try and finish it prior to the January meeting. Once a ride is scheduled, we are committed to it, unless cancelled due to extremely harsh weather (typhoon, tsunami, Dorothy's house passes you by).

During the year, we are going to have some kind of function. Examples would be:

Halloween party, summer bash, spring and fall rides, etc. I am looking for new places for our dinner run. Please send me your ideas.

I believe we should support other chapters and clubs, so I plan on going to their meetings and bring back ride suggestions and safety tips for our club.

So get your oil changed and your bike ready to roll by Memorial Day (or sooner); I am planning an overnighner in Nappanee, In., at the Amish. Details are forth coming.

Ride safe and smile! :)

Les Chapman



Les Chapman
Chapter-H
Representative



A Brief Word About the 30th Annual Toys for Tots

Sunday December 2nd, was a bit cold and icy for most of us. Not for Joel Gyurnek though. He was the lone two wheel representative of chapter H at the 30th Annual Chicagoland Toys for Tots Parade. Chapter Members Lewis Hatt, Cary and Matt Levin and a guest of theirs, also went down in their 4 wheeler to the start of the parade to drop off toys. Thanks Guys for Representing! Hopefully better weather next December.

continued from page 1

Joel said that they usually begin to assemble the display on Thanksgiving weekend and add to it for the ensuing week or two.

You may remember the home in past years with the soldiers standing tall in the gutters lining the roof. If you are a repeat visitor to the home, you may want to try to spot the changes that come with each passing year.

At the request of the park district, the Gyurneks did not enter their home in the annual contest this year because of the 5 consecutive annual awards that they have earned in pervious competitions.

This years motivation was "because it was a lot of fun doin' it" and simply for the enjoyment of others, according to Joel. As Joel told me in conversation, a gentleman stopped by to visit their display and thanked Joel for

"giving his grandson a memory that he will have for the rest of his life".



MEETING STARTS AT 9:00 AM

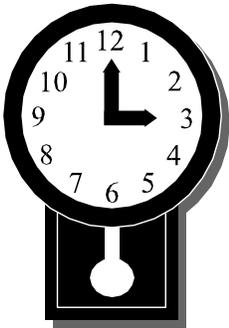
THE NEST CAFE, BARTLETT IL.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2007



Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Reading of the Minutes from the 11/30/2007 Meeting
3. Introduction of guests:
4. Birthdays and Anniversaries
5. National Business:
 - 6/23-6/26 2008 AGWA Gold Classic Rally XXV, Hendersonville, NC *See your WOTR for more details.*
6. State Business:
 - Russ Densmore will be resigning the office of Illinois State Director as of 02/01/08. If a replacement is not elected, state run activity will fall dormant. Nominations come from the Chapter level and can be taken at this and the December Chapter-H meeting.
7. Old Chapter Business:
 - Treasury Report
 - Breakfast Rides-Soup Run-Dinner Run
8. Break-50/50 Sales-Who knows a good joke?
9. New Chapter Business:
 - Committee formation for 2008 Ride Destinations
 - 12/23 Breakfast Ride
 - 12/30 Breakfast Ride
 - 12/31 Chapter H New Year's Day Breakfast **9am @ Colonial Café** 2036 N. Rt. 38., St. Charles (630) 443-8338
 - 01/04 Chapter H Soup Run
 - 01/06 Breakfast Ride
 - 01/13 Breakfast Ride
 - 01/18 Chapter H Dinner Run-Dave & Buster's 1155 N Swift Rd., Addison, IL (630) 543-5151 Leaving McDonald's @ 6pm. Arriving 6:20pm @ D&B's
 - 01/20 Breakfast Ride
 - 01/25 Chapter H General Meeting of the Membership-Back to the Old Country Buffett.
10. SPEAK UP! Open Discussion.
11. 50/50 Drawing
12. Meeting Adjourned...



*SIGN UP 7 NEW MEMBERS IN A YEAR AND RECEIVE A **FREE** 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP!!*

Minutes of the 11-30-07 Meeting

Minutes of the 11/30/07 meeting.

Meeting Place – Old Country Buffet, Streamwood

Number of members in attendance – 17

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Meeting brought to order with attention drawn to our new newsletter.

Our Webmaster, James Garner is now our Newsletter Publisher.

Jim is asking for any interesting articles and/or pictures for our newsletter.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of December.

Fritz Goins – Birthday December 14th

Russ & Carol Pritchard Anniversary December 29th.

We welcomed new members Lewis and Toni Hatt.

Looking for suggestions for a "New" member kit.

One idea to include the following:

Club shirt-Ride schedule-Business Cards with chapter info on them-Restaurant list

Upcoming ride, Toys for Tots (Chicago land Riders)

Riders (2 or 4 wheels) meeting at McDonalds at 6:30am to ride together to the Toys for Tots ride.

Unable to attend and wish to purchase products, go to website: www.Chicagolandtft.com

Products for sale: caps, glasses coast and toys etc. all sales benefit the Toys for Tots.

State Business –

Russ Densmore will be stepping down from his position as state director in February of 2008.

Concerns that state funds are frozen until a new state director is found.

National Business

Gold Classic Event date June 23 – June 26 2008 in Hendersonville, SC

(continued next page)

Minutes of the 11-30-07 Meeting (continued)

Minutes were approved as printed from the last minute.

Discussed new features in the newsletter.

Discussed different ideas for road trips. Including destinations, travel time and time spent at destination.

Christmas breakfast on 12/16 – hosted by Nancy Greco.

Will be raffling centerpieces to benefit the club.

Asked that everyone in attendance, bring a non-perishable food item to benefit a local food pantry for the holidays.

Chris Irwin and Bruce Hirsh to be called to help with music for the party.

Nancy opened the floor for questions regarding the Christmas breakfast.

Chapter Treasury noted at \$1581.00

Fundraisers considered by the chapter for attendance: Leaf River parade, Fourth of July Parade – Hoffman Estates (to benefit the Ride for Kids)

"To Do" list for 2008 – Ride calendar

Next meeting – 12/16/07

January meeting 1/25/08

50/50 winner: Cary Levin \$25

Meeting adjourned 8:36pm

Minutes submitted by Ken Archibald – transcribed by Dawn Garner

The Next Meeting of the Membership will be 7pm Friday, January 25th, 2008 @ The Old Country Buffet, 1020 S. Barrington Rd., Streamwood, IL

THE ORIGIN OF CHAPTER-H'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY *By Jim Garner*

On July 17, 1994, The American Gold Wing Association, Illinois Chapter-H, Carol Stream, held their first ever "Barbeque Blowout" Poker Run to raise monies to help fund the chapter treasury. The poker run was a great success and raised a great deal of money thanks to it's participants and the generous donations received for auction.

As the Summer gave way to fall, I happened to be listening to radio personality Jonathon Brandmeier the afternoon before our November meeting of the chapter membership. Johnny's guest that afternoon was a woman named donna Hinrichs, who had a kitchen table operation called *Clause & Effect*, where donna matched local letters to Santa from families in need, to those willing to meet those needs.

That evening I brought *Clause & Effect* to the attention of the chapter and after reviewing the surplus of funds we had in our treasury from the poker run and Halloween party, we decided, as a chapter, to use the majority of the funds to help a family screened by donna. In addition to purchasing basic necessities and gifts for the kids, chapter members went out of their way to have items donated from their co-workers and employers.

One such stand out that first year was the late chapter-H member Jasper "Jay" Passalaqua. Jay was able to provide a table, chairs and a microwave among other items he collected for our family. Jay had a rough disposition at times, but when it came to helping kids in need, he was always their to help.

The article on page 5 describes the events that unfolded as we visited our first ever recipient of gifts provided from the treasury and donations of chapter-H members. The piece was reproduced from the December 19, 1994 Daily Herald. It was later discussed in the parking lot of Luchreshia's apartment that perhaps we could bring to a vote to make the following year's poker run a "Christmas in July" fund raising event to help families in need during the holiday season, and for nine consecutive years, The American Gold Wing Association, Illinois Chapter-H did just that.



pictured from left to right:
Angelo (donna's husband), Johnathon
Brandmeier and donna Hinrichs

reproduced from the December 19, 1994 Daily Herald

also see page 4 **The Origin of Chapter-H's Christmas in July**

Daily Herald

PADDOCK PUBLICATIONS

Monday, December 19, 1994

Free-wheeling Santa delivers single mom gifts for fresh start

By Eric Krol
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Luchreshia Gray could barely contain her tears of joy when Santa arrived Sunday morning at her Lake Zurich apartment on his shiny red motorcycle, a truck full of goodies close behind.

Santa had brought Gray and her two young children a sack full of early Christmas gifts including clothes, linens and a microwave oven - items many Northwest suburban residents take for granted.

But Santa had not come from the North Pole. The man in the red suit was played by Streamwood resident Charles Mallett, who along with his wife, Marla, and several dozen other members of an area motorcycle aficionados club raised money to buy the gifts for the Gray family.

Marla Mallett said her chapter of the American

Gold Wing Association, which is named after a type of Honda motorcycle, was made aware of the Grays' plight through a Bartlett charitable organization called "Clause and Effect."

Gray, a 23-year-old single mother, had recently moved from the inner city to the federally subsidized Lake Zurich apartment, but had few of life's everyday essentials for her and her 7-year-old daughter, Terri, and 1-year-old son, Leavon.

"There was so much drug activity going on that I had to get out of there," Gray said.

But on Sunday she said life took a turn for the better, as Mallett's group showed up armed with everything from toys and a Christmas tree to winter clothes and a toaster.

"We were



Heather Mallett of Streamwood, left, watches as Luchreshia Gray and her daughter, Terri, try on clothing

overwhelmed. There was just so much," said Gray, who also got her first-ever motorcycle ride - on Santa's bike, of course.

Mallett and Gray had spoken many times over the phone during the past month, but both had tears in their eyes when they met for the first time Sunday.

"The look on the children's faces was priceless," Mallett said.

"Even though we were the ones giving the gifts, we

received so much more, I think. There's nothing in the world like it."

The motorcycle group raised the money through a Halloween party and by giving motorcycle rides at special events, Mallett said.

And even though most of the presents were opened, a few presents were stashed away for Christmas morning.

"As we were leaving, the last thing (Terri) said to us was she truly does believe there is a Santa," Mallett said.



Reprinted from the West Chicago Press, November 27, 2007

Interlink: <http://www.chicagosuburbannews.com/westchicago/homepage/x852317090>

Author shares message of hope in first published children's book

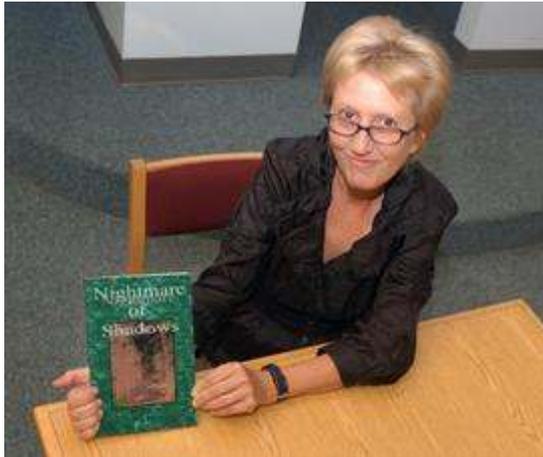


Photo by Steve Bittinger

West Chicago resident and Geneva teacher Chris Irwin displays her book, "Nightmare of Shadows."

By Kendra Mims

West Chicago Press

Mon Nov 26, 2007, 04:58 PM CST

West Chicago, IL -

After watching a news story on a missing boy who was found alive, Chris Irwin was inspired to write "Nightmare of Shadows," a fictional children's book to give children hope and courage through difficult situations.

Irwin, 48, has written about 20 books since her writing career began 15 years ago, and although she has shared her books with local school children since 1996, "Nightmare of Shadows" is her first published children's book.

The West Chicago resident is a technology assistant at Geneva's Mill Creek Elementary School. She gives credit to her late daughter for the start of her career.

Q How did your writing career begin?

A In 1992 my oldest daughter was in the hospital having a liver transplant surgery. While she was in the intensive care unit I was reading to her all the time and I quickly ran out of reading material. I couldn't afford to go out to buy books. In desperation, I began writing just to have something to read to her while she was in the hospital.

Sometimes you do things because you have to. Famous author Diane Redmond would read to the kids who were extremely sick and she came and read to my daughter. My daughter said my mom writes. I was extremely embarrassed that she asked Diane to read this very badly written story, but she was very kind and she was very helpful because she gave me all this information, a manuscript of how to lay it out and how to send it to the publishers with an illustration. She just inspired me to continue to write. I think it's been a work in progress since then. I thought I would have stopped writing when we left the hospital but I was inspired to continue. I kept all the stuff I wrote for her (her daughter) and continued to work on it. So now I have a library of books I wrote for her. I've continued to write since then.

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Q What inspired you to turn the news story into a children's book? Where did the idea come from?

A There was a TV news report about a boy that had been kidnapped. He was kidnapped for a couple of weeks when they found him. He was found with another boy who had been kidnapped for about five years. I was absolutely horrified about the story and it just stirred up deep images and I just started writing. I wanted to show kids that although they can have a horrific time, they can actually get through it.

Q How was your experience writing the book?

A It was difficult to write. It took me a quite long time. It took me about nine months to write it and I felt good at the end.

Q: How challenging was the process to turn the news story into a fictional children's book?

A: I'm not sure that it was particularly difficult. It just poured out of me. The hardest part was just keeping up with my emotions as I was writing. And afterwards putting it into order because when I first wrote it I just wrote whatever was coming out of me at the time. I actually had to go back and put it in order and that was the hardest part to actually getting it into a timeline. When I first wrote it there was no time to it. I was just writing what I was feeling at the time. So putting it into a timeline was the most difficult thing for me.

Q: What did you enjoy most about writing this book?

A: I just love to write. Anytime I'm inspired I have to write and I was totally inspired to write this story.

Chris Irwin file

Years in West Chicago: 7

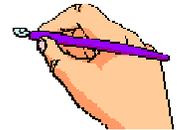
Family: Husband, two daughters

Hobbies: Motorcycling, horseback riding, camping, writing children's books and poetry

Organizations: Local AGWA Club (motorcycling club)

Favorite Authors: Diane Redmond, Dr. Seuss and Lauren Brooke

Future goals: Continue

*Review...*

Now THIS is one excellent read, and it does not matter whether you are 8, or 80, because the story captures a universal concern, the terror of random kidnapping, and even more important, the delight of young people outwitting and defeating kidnappers! There is a youngster on vacation with his family, who suddenly just disappears into a busy shopping area, and it suddenly becomes a wild, and riveting, suspense-filled journey for one and all from that point on. The author has cleverly written this in a nearly "universal" setting, so while the sites and street life sounds and experiences are instantly recognizable, it is absolutely impossible to identify exactly where the entire sequence of events takes place! Do not be misled with the gifted author's suggestion that this is a book written targeted for "young people", because just like with the memorable Harry Potter series, adults will love it even more!

Bruce Hirsch

HOW 'BOUT A CHAPTER NICKNAME? CHAPTER-G ARE THE "GEMS", CHAPTER-E WERE THE "ELITES". WHAT CAN WE NICKNAME CHAPTER-H? SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO WCWINGER@AOL.COM AND WE'LL DISCUSS THEM AT OUR MEETING!





Season's Greetings



DECEMBER 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Toys for Tots Breakfast Ride	3	4	5  Chanukah	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day. 1941 Soup Run	8
9 Breakfast Ride	10	11	12	13	14  Fritz Goins!	15 Dinner Run (CANCELED)
16 Chapter Christ- mas Breakfast/ Meeting 	17	18	19	20	21	22 Winter Begins 12:08am
23 Breakfast Ride	24	25  Christmas	26	27	28  Russ & Carol Prichard!	29
30 Breakfast Ride	31 	Jan 1, 2008 New Year's Breakfast				

MAKE IT A GREAT 2008!



THIS MONTH'S CHAPTER "H"appenings



JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  New Year's Day Breakfast	2	3	4	5  Paulette Brenton Bruce Hirsch
6 Breakfast Ride	7	8	9	10  Kitty Levin	11	12
13 Breakfast Ride	14	15	16	17  Carol Goins Bev Chapman	18	19 Dinner Run
20 Breakfast Ride	21  Quinn Schaefer	22  Larry Thurman	23	24	25  Nancy Greco Chapter Meeting	26
27 Breakfast Ride	28	29  Lorri Berthalot Ken Kaya	30	31		

MAKE IT A GREAT 2008!



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOLD WING ASSOCIATION,
ILLINOIS CHAPTER-H

“H”appenings

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VISIT US ON THE WEB
WWW.CHRISTMASINJULY.ORG

Since 1983, the American Gold Wing Association has shared the common desire of fun, fellowship, and safety. AGWA is a family orientated, family membership social organization of Gold Wing owners and other brands of touring motorcycles who share the love for the open road and participating in exciting activities, recreation and educational programs, events, and fellowship. AGWA is an AMA chartered organization. All Directors and Officers are volunteers serving without financial compensation. All positions are obtained through a completely democratic process.



**The Next Meeting of the Membership will be 7pm
Friday, January 25th, 2008 @ The Old Country
Buffet, 1020 S. Barrington Rd., Streamwood, IL**



CHAPTER-H

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