



# Ramblings

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GARDEN GROVE KIWANIS RAMBLINGS, PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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## Presidents Corner

**John Leeb**

When the news covers foreign wars, I often think of Jon Arislanouk. I did not know him well. He was two years ahead of me in school and was captain and goalkeeper of the soccer team. Although he was only about five foot seven, he was as intimidating as anyone I ever played with. If an opposing player got a breakaway, we knew there were equal chances of him scoring and of him leaving the game. Jon was thick, solid muscle. When we showered, we should have been overwhelmed by his physique, but it was covered beneath a thick mat of black hair. We would kid him about it, "How do you know where to stop shaving?" Even when he shaved his face and neck for a long time, some long chest hairs would poke out above his collar. He would take the ribbing good-naturedly, because we were his teammates. But we hoped heaven had mercy on our opponents, because J on never did. A hard tackle at midfield once brought him charging out of the goal at full speed, and he shattered the kid's nose. Of course, he was suspended from school and the next two games, but the team loved him for it. During practice, I learned to shoot before he got anywhere near me. He wouldn't try to hurt us, but he didn't understand the lower pain thresholds of mere mortals.

After he graduated, we heard some weird rumors: that his dad was a double agent in the KGB and had escaped detection only by hours; that his father's family was still in Russia and being persecuted; and that Jon had signed up with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. I saw him at a party and he confirmed that he was fighting against the Russians, only here for a family function. I asked him what could drive him to risk his life, and he said I wouldn't understand.

He died in Afghanistan about six months later. Jon was stronger, smarter and more capable than the rest of us. And yet, he is the one who died at twenty.

In my job, I see a lot of kids I know will only be a burden on society. And on the news, I see the faces of the soldiers who die and I think, "Are they all like Jon?" Because it seems to me, they are ones we can least afford to lose.

Have a good week.

**John Leeb**

*Life is not permanent, but Kiwanis projects go on forever.*

## Next is the battle for Golf Supremacy

The Club sponsored **Lauren Howard's (Craig's daughter)** entry into the **Garden Grove pageant**. Six members in attendance at the Division 4 DCM on June 21st. This qualifies us for an Inter-club. Thanks go to **Jack W., Jerry M., Peter C., Gary S., Ed H. and John L.** At the DCM, it was announced they are looking for a Div. 4 Lt. Gov.-elect for next year. Anyone interested, contact **Lt. Gov. Don Beatty**.

**Monday, July 26th** is the date for the **Kiwanisland Golf Tournament** at **Willowick Golf Course**. **Golf Chairman Ed Hodges** has flyers for signing up to golf and for tee sponsors. He is also looking for goodie bag items and for raffle prizes if you know of any businesses that would like to donate them. Flyers will be going out in the **GG Chamber's "Communicator"** and an ad will be placed in the **Garden Grove Journal**. The **O.C. Register** has been asked to run the **Golf Tournament** information too.

### Craig Howard officially sworn in

**Craig Howard** was sworn in as a member of the **Garden Grove Kiwanis Club**.

**Gary and Sharon Sunda** will be participating in the **Cancer Society's "Walk for Life"** event on July 30th and are looking for sponsors.

### Happy/Sad

**Tom E.** -Happy for **Jack's** son, Sad that he will be missing next week because he and **Pat** are going on vacation to Africa. **Jim H.** - Happy for successful back surgery and that he is feeling better, glad for visitors and well wishes, happy to hear that Jack's son is doing better and glad to be back at **Kiwanisland** and to see all of his good friends. **R.C.** - Happy for **Jack's** son doing better and for **President John's** haircut. **Peter C.** - Happy for **Jack's** son doing better. **Gerry N.** - Happy for being in the Sierra's fishing for the last week. **Jerry K.** - -Sad \$ because he missed last week. Happy \$ because he was Albacore fishing and he got several. **Ed H.** - .Sad because **Jerry K.** didn't invite him to go fishing, Happy because **Gary S.** will be doing the Golf tourney next year (according to Ed...) **Don M.** - Happy that he forgot. **Fred W.** - Happy for his 39th Wedding Anniversary last week. **Tony L.** - Happy for his 30th Wedding Anniversary and for **Jack's** son doing better. **Don. N.** - Happy for the program tonight and for being employed for the summer. **Charles K.** - Happy for his birth-day last week and also for **Jack's** son. **Gary S.** - Happy for **Jack's** son doing better, **John L.'s** haircut and for **Ed H.** doing such a good job on the golf tourney. **Scott M.** - Happy \$ for **Jack's** son doing better and for everything else. **Jack W.** - Happy \$ that his son **Steve's** surgery was successful and wants to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. **Tom P.** - Happy \$ that he made it another day. **Shelly S.** - -Sad because dead birds were found in area code 92840 with the West Nile virus. **Pat Halberstadt** - Happy \$ to be at **Kiwanisland**. **Jon E.** - Happy for **Jack's** son doing better. **John L.** - Happy that school is out and he now gets to stay home with his daughters. Happy for **Jack's** son doing better. More Happy \$ for a great DCM (since he won the 50-50 raffle). **Craig H.** - Happy that he is part of the greatest **Kiwanis Club** in the world. Happy \$ for his daughter being in the **Miss Garden Grove Contest**.

### Guest Speaker

**Pat Halberstadt**, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove has been with the B&G Club of GG since 1974 (29 years). Motto is ""Children are such a great way to start people." She thanks the Kiwanis Club for the help it has provided to the Boys & Girls Club. They have 10 sites in Garden Grove and serves 1500 school age kids a day. They have 70 full time staff members, approx. 135 part-time staff and 60 volunteers. They have pre-school and actually serve children 18 months to 18 years ("diapers to diplomas"). More than 70% of GG School age children are living at or below the poverty level and 65% speak a language other than English at home. CHOC will soon be building a 1400 sq. ft. Children's Health Center in Garden Grove. Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove Wine Festival at **Kiwanisland** on **September 25, 2004**

### Coming Attractions

<b>July 1</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Master Gardener Home Depot</b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b>Alan Murphy</b>	<b>Director of John Wayne Airport</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Monica Escobar</b>	
<b>July 22</b>	<b>Michael McGuire</b>	<b>Elder Law Center</b>
<b>July 29</b>	<b>David Suudstrom</b>	<b>Auditor Controller</b>
<b>Aug 5</b>	<b>Lauren Howard</b>	<b>Our Miss GG Contestant</b>

### Thought For The Week

**Happiness is having good health and a short memory**



*Not only the talented are welcome. July 26th at "the battle for the Sands of Willowick!"*