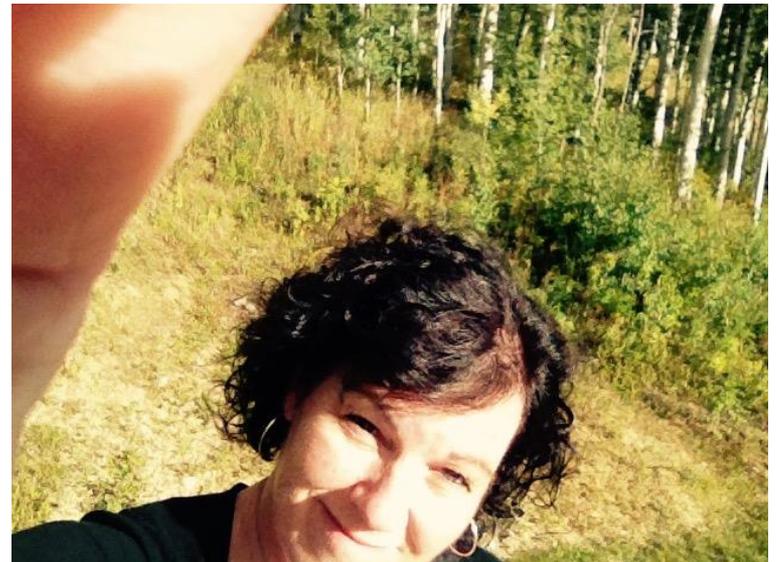


# **THE ACCIDENTAL LEADER: *REFLECTIONS ON AN ORDINARY PERSON'S JOURNEY INTO LEADERSHIP***

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Janet DesGeorges  
March 3-5, 2019  
EHDI Meeting  
Chicago, Illinois



# “Be Present”

Are you listening? Paying attention? Stay focused. Stop looking at your phone...Turn it off. Put it away. Be here. Now. In the present.

Be with who you're with. Talk with them. Live with them. Take some time. Think...

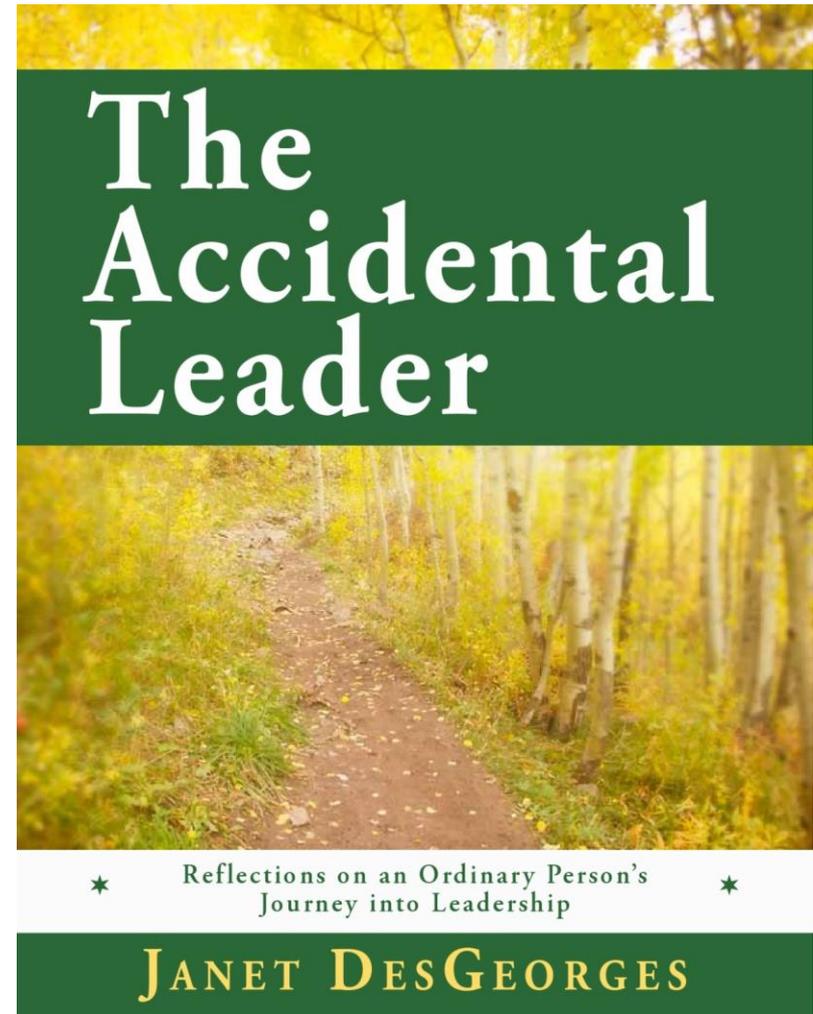
What you were called to do? Pause. Take it in. What is your community? Who is your community?...Do you have a presence?...If you left your community, would you leave a mark? Lead in the place you're called to.

Don't worry about the past. The future will come later. It's all about now. Here. Go all in. Be rooted.....

*(citation: derived from a 'Catalyst' mailer)*

- “...There are hundreds of books written about this subject matter already. They are mostly written by highly educated researchers, or famous people who have accomplished a lot in life. But this book is about the concept of *ordinary* people embracing the aspects of leadership in their everyday lives. I can relate to ordinary. I feel quite qualified all of the sudden.”

-*The Accidental Leader, Page 15*



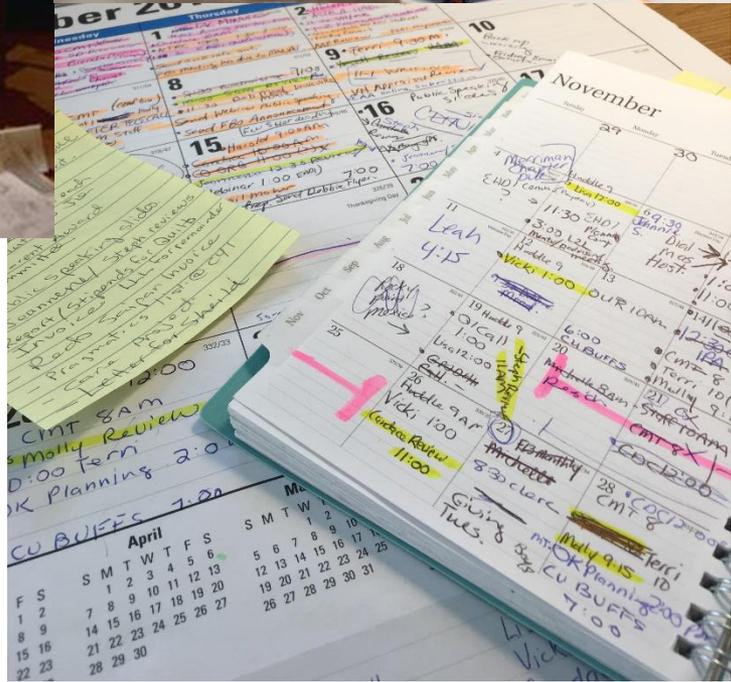
Unpublished (still)

# Why

- “Leadership is taking others to a place they wouldn’t go on their own.” – unknown
- The Success of 1-3-6 depends on your leadership! Wherever you are planted, with whatever title or identity you have (EHDI programs, medical world, education system, Deaf/HH communities, parent engagement, etc.)
- “Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed.” Mwai Kibaki
- What is your why?

*Speeches*  
that changed  
the world

*Over 100 of the most influential speeches ever made*



**“It is not easy for us as leaders to give up the experience of ourselves as being burdened by heavy responsibility and immense complexity. It is not easy for us to accept the possibility that we do not have to be burdened, and that we play a central part in whether or not we are burdened.”**

*Barry Oshry, “The Possibilities of Organization”*



# Leader with a Capital “L”

A word about *the word* Leadership

‘who me? yes, you’

No one has time to change the world...

We envision a world  
where children who  
are deaf and hard of  
hearing have every  
opportunity to achieve  
their full potential.

*- H&V vision*



# Addressing Burnout

*“I don’t know how much longer I can hang on... I’m doing all the work, and can’t get others (i.e. board members at your non-profit, stakeholders in the EHDI system, workplace) to shoulder any of the load.... I have kids, a full time job, housecleaning (I already gave that up), **please help!**”*

*Have any of these thoughts? .... I feel burned out... I don’t feel burned out, but others think I am.... I can’t stand my boss/board/situation.... I have no passion...I just don’t really care anymore*

# Are you Ready to Lead?

- Everyone has a starting point
- “Don’t compare your beginning to someone else’s hours and hours of mastery(You’ll get there, too!)” – Karen Putz
- In the midst of life
  - “On the days I can’t walk, I crawl.”
- Know the ‘season of life’ you are in.
  - “You can check out, but you can never leave.”



# The Journey Starts Here

Reflect on, write about, talk about your own life experiences that created in you a desire to make change. Make a list from those experiences of the things that created new skillsets or character traits the you can use to lead with.”

# Competence Builds Confidence

- Take the time to evaluate yourself. It's a good idea to go through some formal assessments on your personality, your leadership style etc. to have clearer insight into your own leadership skills. Where your strengths lie, what do you feel confident in? It is so easy for us to dwell on our weaknesses, rather than to build on our strengths. Ask others to share with you what they see in you that they admire.

What Gives you the Right? Find your  
Voice

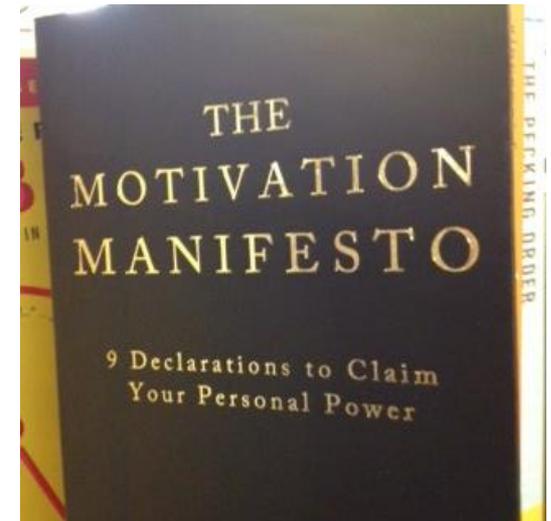
“I am Just a Mom”

# What are your credentials?

- Build the skills you need in the work you are doing today.
- Advocacy
- Management
- People Skills
- Read books, attend workshops, shadow others, find a mentor.
  - *“The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.”* – Jim Rohn.

# (Self) Motivation

- Raise your hand. Next time an opportunity arises to take on something challenging, take it. Don't just stay in your safe box. Stretch yourself.
- Follow through on what you say you are going to do. This is one of the most important aspects of building a reputation that can lead to leadership positions.
  - This one tip will put head and shoulders above the masses.



# Don't Surround Yourself with Yourself

- Take time to understand others' motivations, personalities and leadership skills.
- Make a decision to find at least one person in your life that challenges you. If no one is brave enough to face you, ask for it in your life.
- Follow good leaders. You will learn from the them and they will rub off on you.

# Giving Credit where Credit is Due

- Give credit to others.
- Next time someone steals your idea and runs with it, be glad the idea has legs, and don't worry about it.

# It's never about one person...

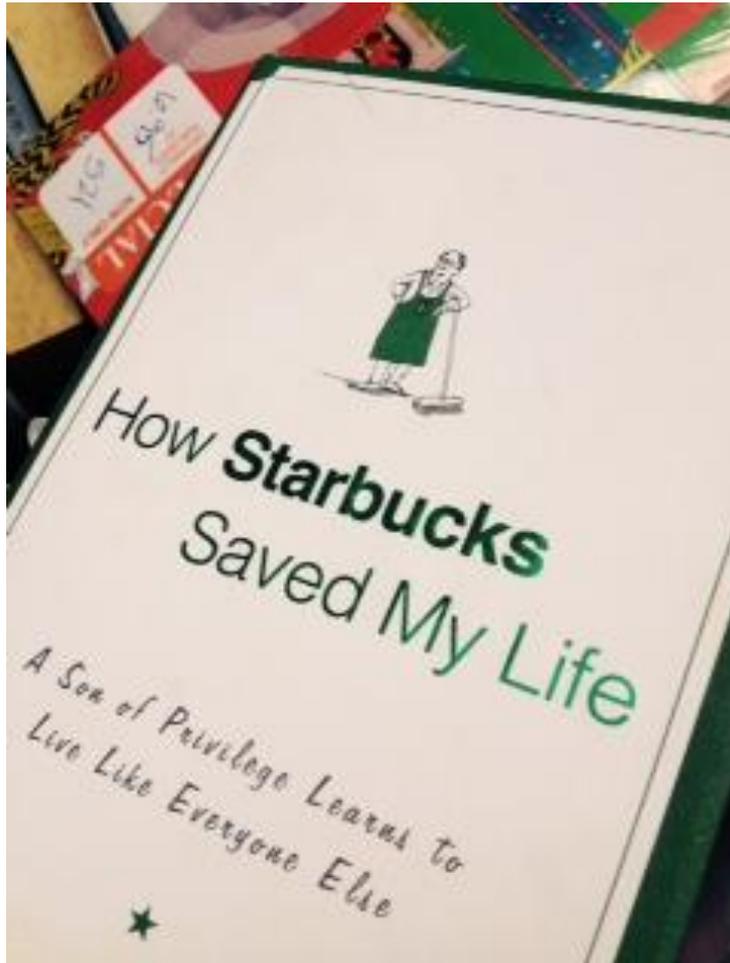
“And by ‘we’ I mean ‘you’” – *Janet, in most emails/meetings with staff...*



# The Lions are at the Door: Dealing with Stress

- Schedule in Sanity. Ensure that you are a sacred keeper of your calendar.
- Whatever feeds your soul, you must find a way to keep that in your life.

Whatever inspires you...



# A final note about succession planning..

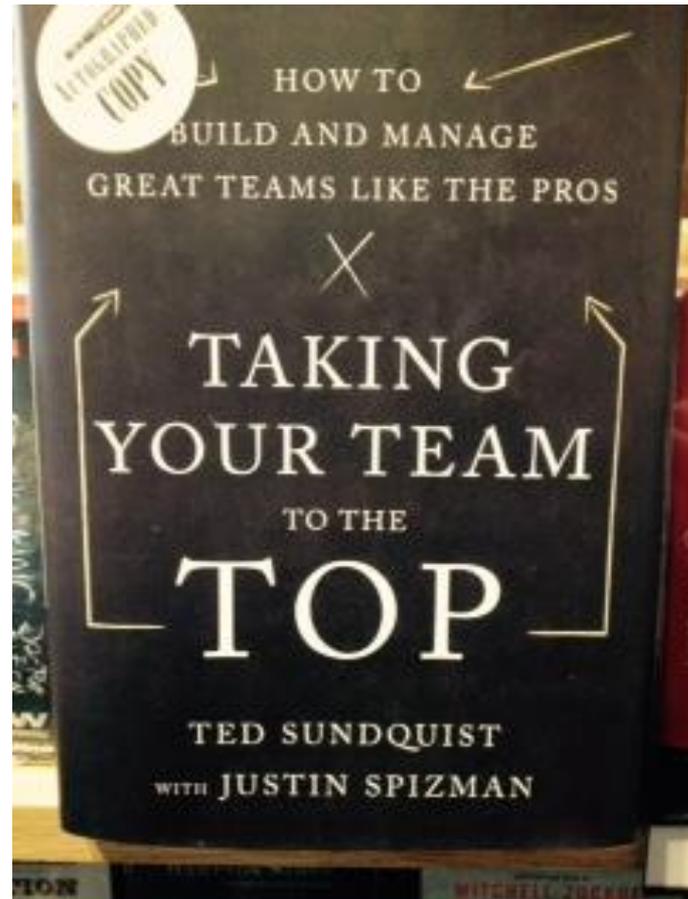
- Put energy and intention into growing leaders.
  - Identify potential
- Share responsibilities
  - We already know that you could do it better, that's not the point.
- **The legacy of your leadership relies significantly on how well the organization continues to thrive after you are gone.** Your replacement is a direct reflection of the quality of your leadership.

*(May 11th, 2013 by bradlomenick in [leadership, Leadership Rules](#))*

# So Lead Already

## Use this conference:

- Talk to others about your challenges
- Don't spend too much time at the 'whine bar'
- Look for solutions
- 'Take names'
- Take back what you learn



Who is this about?



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