

# The Record

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BETTER LIVING

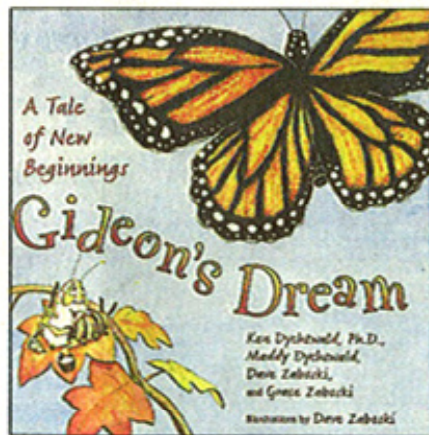
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

## FAMILY

### Book teaches that change never ends

Baby boomers Ken and Maddy Dychtwald – two of America’s leading authorities on their generation – had long wanted to write a children’s book that would help kids understand their parents and grandparents, and shape their expectations about adult life.

“It really began as a kernel of an idea when we first had our own kids, because we would read stories to our kids every night, and we noticed that most of the stories had young people going through a transformation,” says Maddy, co-founder of Age Wave, a firm that advises companies and government groups on baby-



Dream: A Tale of New Beginnings” is about a caterpillar named Gideon who is initially fearful of changes in his life but ultimately transforms into a happy butterfly.

The former New Jerseyans – Ken is a

boomer and mature-adult issues.

“You never saw older people having that kind of an experience. ... If you’re in your 30s, 40s, 50s, you’re [considered] over the hill. But that was against everything we talk about in Age Wave – that your life will be filled with reinvention.”

Long in the works – the Dychtwalds’ son and daughter are now 18 and 21 respectively – their “Gideon’s

Newark native, Maddy went to Millburn High – co-authored the book with illustrator Dave Zabolski, a senior animator for Disney, and his “very opinionated” daughter, Grace, who’s 7.

Ken, a best-selling author and an adviser to Grand magazine, says “Gideon” is an ideal book to read to one’s grandchildren, because “the myths and fables we’re exposed to when we’re young shape our thinking.”

The Dychtwalds wanted to drive home that it’s never too late to dream and, with longer life spans, “you’re so far away from the finish line when you’re 55 or 65 that there’s plenty of room for fresh starts and new beginnings.”

Adds Maddy, “You have a chance to keep becoming a butterfly for your entire life.”

— Virginia Rohan