

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

News Brief

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By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids



7th Annual Walk for Youth—A Fun Time!

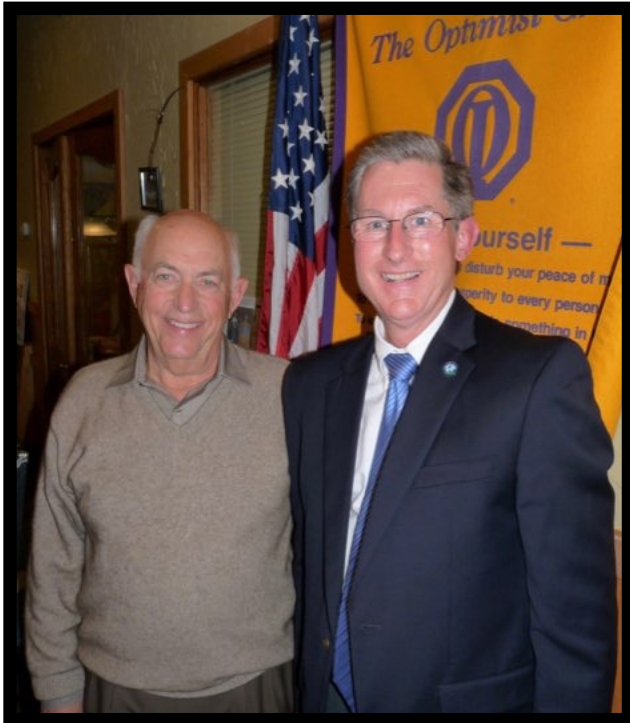


On January 28, 2017, the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club hosted the 7th Annual Walk for Youth Fun Fundraiser at Arneill Ranch Park.



With lots of help from members, school friends, parents and kids the events with its Grand Marshall—**Shig Yabu**—sharing his **Olympic Torch** with some of the lucky participants, went as planned. The Walk Committee is grateful to **Ruth Dersh** for obtaining many of the popular raffle prizes from local business, the set up, check-in, and work team members—**Jennifer Conn, Chantell Limon, Larry Davis, Howard Hoover, Mike Kroll, Nobuko McClure, Mike Mishler, Luci Pommers, Roger Ransom, Jack and Marianne Rotenberg, Frank Roth, Ada Lee Sullivan, Janna Visser, Aaron Aronson**, and a lot of family members and friends who pitched in, too—**Sean, Danny, and Stacy Roth; Kyle Ayers** (friend of Chantelle); and **Shannon (JOI Club advisor from ACHS), Bob, Sierra, and Skylar Klemann**. Most importantly, the JOI Club advisors, teachers, parents, and friends who encouraged and transported the walkers are to be thanked.

Jan. 9 - Camarillo City Manager—Dave Norman



Dave Norman, City Manager since last April, shared a lot of the many projects and future plans for Camarillo and answered a lot of questions from the members when he visited the Optimist Club earlier this month. The Camarillo City Council for a rare change selected someone from within the City instead of a newcomer to Camarillo. Dave has served since 2015 as the Assistant City Manager.

Norman, 54, has more than 25 years of local government experience, with nearly ten of those years serving as a city manager.

Norman served as city manager of Port Hueneme for six years before coming to Camarillo and serving as the city's community development director since 2012. Norman holds a master's degree in public administration and is credentialed as a manager by the International City

Managers Association.

Among several other city projects, the “hot button” issues he discussed were the Camarillo Springs Golf Course redevelopment and the Calleguas Land Company’s plan to create 1593 residential units and commercial space on agricultural land at Adohr Lane and Pleasant Valley Road. Although he was generous with his time, we all know that we need to get to the City Council meetings to keep abreast of all that is happening in Camarillo.

YWA - Race Harber, CAPE School

Student Works to Change the World for the Better

Race Harber, a 6th grade student at CAPE—Camarillo Academy of Progressive Education—received the Youth We Appreciate Award from the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club at their January 9, 2017, meeting at



Round Table Pizza. **Karen Schlemmer** and **Michelle Keefer**, his teachers, shared some of the accomplishments and activities that Race, an 11-year-old, has been involved in to be selected for this honor. “He is a hard working student that participates in most school activities including helping to raise money for the many school fundraisers. In the community he has participated for four years in 4-H, in Beach Clean-up Days, and the Rescue Mission, feeding the homeless one to three times every month.” Race also has been going on mission trips to Mexico since he was 5 to donate food and other necessities to the less fortunate there. In addition to his teachers accompanying him at the Optimist Club his parents, Mark and Keri Harber; and Doreen Learned, Director of Operations for CAPE, were present. In addition to the award certificate, Race earned a \$100 gift for his school.

Jan. 23 - Cal State University Channel Islands Speakers— Dr. Genevieve Taylor and Ava Gomez

Ava Gomez, Director of Annual Giving and Special Gifts in the University Advancement Department and a native of Oxnard, shared some the many fund raising activities and challenges CSUCI deals with as the university grows. **Dr. Genevieve Taylor**, the daughter of an Army physician, grew up moving from place to place. By the time she was 15, she'd lived in Hawaii, Colorado, Germany, New Hampshire, and Maine. Looking back, Evans Taylor believes that adventurous upbringing may have inspired one of her most fundamental personality traits.

“It made me really excited for new; yearning for new at all times,” she said. “I love creating new initiatives and programs and relish the opportunity to build. I’m constantly changing programs because I want them to stay relevant, but also because I need the ongoing challenge and growth.” That hasn’t been a problem at CI, where she became the inaugural Executive

Director of the ASI (Associated Students, Inc.) in 2009. Over the past four years, Evans Taylor has helped establish a world-class Student Union; overseen CI’s Student Government, ASI Programming Board, student newspaper and yearbook; developed innovative student engagement and leadership programs; and created fun, purposeful ways for students to fill their co-curricular time. She was presented by CI students with the Maxiums Award that goes to an administrator who creates an exceptional learning experience for the student body.

“Being with people gives me a high,” she said. “I find tremendous joy in helping our students to discover who they are and the strengths they can bring to our world.”



Dr. Taylor stumbled onto her career path as a highly engaged undergraduate student at The University of South Dakota. She held leadership roles in student programming, honor societies,

and her sorority, Alpha Phi. After graduating, she stayed at The University of South Dakota for 14 years in jobs promoting student engagement, earned her master's degree and Ed.D., and developed international leadership programs for Alpha Phi.

In 2009, Evans Taylor jumped at the chance to initiate student engagement and leadership programs on CI's growing campus as its first ASI Executive Director. In the years since, she's proudly overseen the day-to-day functions of the new, state-of-the-art, 23,000-square-foot Student Union, along with 13 student employees, four professional staff members, four ASI entities, and countless campus events. She also has worked as an instructor, curriculum developer and mentor for CI students and community members on topics ranging from team-building and community engagement to leadership and professional development.

YWA - Cassidy Epstein—Personality that Shines out to Peers

(l-r): **Rancho Rosal Elementary School Principal, John Reilley; PVSD Superintendent, Dr. Angelica Ramsey; Teacher, Ian McLaren; Cassidy; and parents, Katie and Matt Epstein**



Cassidy Epstein is an outstanding 5th grade student that participates with exceptional enthusiasm and interest in all school experiences. She is a part of Rancho Rosal Junior Optimist Club and loves to serve her school to make it a welcoming place for all students. Cassidy is an avid soccer player that is committed to practicing daily and becoming successful in the future.

Calendar of Coming Events

February 6 - Gerry Olsen - Norwegian Grade and Area History; and YWA—Mahliah Maldonado from Las Posas School

13 - Steven Dwyer - Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Ventura County

20 - NO MEETING - Presidents' Holiday

27 - Dr. Penelope DeLeon - Superintendent Oxnard Union High School District; and YWA—Jolina Le from Monte Vista School

March 6 - Donald Price - Retired Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Pollution and Climate Changes) and YWA Sophia Valencia, Cam Heights

13 - TBA

16 - Optimist Club Annual Youth Banquet, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m. at the Camarillo Community Center Auditorium

Remember to check the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club website—www.camarillooptimistclub.org—to check on upcoming happening, past newsletters, special events, contact info, etc.

Thanks all for helping make the Walk for Youth another fun fundraiser for our schools, community and Optimist Club!!!