

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

News Brief

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Editor in training: Ron Klemann



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



Red Ribbons Are Proudly Tied

Optimists Honor Red Ribbon Week Contestants

The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club in cooperation with the Pleasant Valley School District honored the winners of the 9th Annual Red Ribbon Week Writing Contest at Los Primeros School of Sciences and Arts on Nov. 10. The contestants wrote on a number of themes appropriate for their grade level.



Front row (l-r): Storm Rojas, Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School (SRTMS), 3rd grade, 3rd place; Amber Koh, Camarillo Academy of Progressive Education, (CAPE), 3rd grade, 2nd place; Charlotte Wilson, 3rd grade, 1st place, CAPE; Violet Simiens, 5th grade, 3rd place, SRTMS; Joaquin Heisler-Domingues, Los Primeros School of Sciences and Arts (LPSSA), 4th grade, 3rd place; Sophie St. Amand, CAPE, 5th grade, 2nd place; Cambria Wilkinson, LPSSA, 3rd grade, 1st place; Karissa Short, LPSSA, 5th grade, 1st place; Mathew Driver, Cornerstone Christian School, 4th grade, 2nd place.

Back row (l-r): Samantha Tull, Cornerstone Christian School, 6th grade, 2nd place; Parker Gravel, Monte Vista Middle School (MVMS), 6th grade, 3rd place; Estrella Gonzalez, University Charter Middle School, 7th grade, 1st place; Mikayla Gerry, CAPE, 6th grade, 1st place; Sydney Burnett, MVMS, 7th grade, 3rd place; James Park, Cornerstone Christian School, 7th grade, 2nd place; Aimee Moser, CAPE, 8th grade, 1st place; Jaden Barlow, SRTMS, 8th grade, 2nd place; Calvin Thomas, PVSEA, 8th grade, 3rd place.

Debbie Maki, Pleasant Valley School District Director of Curriculum, organized and coordinated the Red Ribbon Week Writing Contest for all the schools in the Camarillo area. She announce the names of the winners and the schools they attended. **Jeanette Bassett**, Optimist Club Sec/Treasure made the certificates and purchased the gift cards for the contestants. **Ron Klemann**, president of the Optimist Club, shared the history of Red Ribbon Week and awarded certificates and gift cards to all the winners. Each first place winner received a \$50 gift certificate, each second place winner received a \$35 gift certificate, and each third place winner received a \$25 gift certificate.



Helpers and refreshment providers (l-r): Shig Yabu, Luci Pommers, Mike Kroll, Janna Visser—setup organizer, Ruth Dersh, Ada Lee Sullivan, Jeanette Bassett, Jennifer Conn, Howard Hoover, and Ron Klemann

Recent Presentations and Guest Speakers

Nov. 7 Al Limon with Daughter and Optimist Club Member Chantelle



Al Limon has been a long time friend, supporter and volunteer of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club. He has helped out with the Annual Youth Banquet in March and the Installation and Awards dinner in September when filling in for his daughter, **Chantelle**. **Al**, who is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX Integrity at 1203 Flynn Road in Camarillo, shared some of history of the local real estate market going back to 1985.

Al grew up in Camarillo and graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from CSU Northridge and owned a variety of businesses before obtaining his real estate license in 1986 and then opening his own real estate brokerage in 1995. He has experienced the highs and lows of market conditions from 1985 to the present. Low interest rates have helped sales in recent years, but changes may be on the horizon. He was very generous to share so much and answer lots of guest questions.

Nov. 14 - Shigeru Yabu and Tom Kuznkowski



With a great musical introduction from his longtime friend and basketball partner—**Tom Kuznkowski**—**Shig Yabu** entertained and informed the Optimist Club members, the many guests, and some of his personal friends with his presentation about bits of his life and amazing experiences, and the people he has met along the way. You would have to read his books—**Hello Maggie!** and **The Boy of Heart Mountain**—to fill in some of the many details he did not have time to share.

Tom began by singing a number of memorable tunes, like “**Don’t Fence Me In**” that got the crowd tapping their toes, clapping their hands and singing along! He certainly helped set the mood for the many stories **Shig** shared covering decades from his days at Heart Mountain during WWII to his later days living in Camarillo with his wife and boys. Children and adults enjoy his books which may be purchased at any of our Monday meetings or by calling or emailing him: phone 805-482-3545, email: shigyabu@aol.com.

He encountered **Maggie**—a magpie bird while sneaking off the Heart Mountain detention camp with boyhood friends. With a sling shot he brought down the baby bird and nest. Feeling guilty he carried the bird home and caged it outside. In time Maggie learned to talk and chatter with visitors that passed by and became a dear friend to **Shig** and others. He explained that detention camp life had many fun and memorable events that helped him and others deal with the sometimes drab and prisoner-like surroundings.

If you come early to the regular Optimist Club meetings and sit near him, **Shig** will be able to share many other amazing experiences in his life. He comes early to every meeting and generously helps set up the room and helps take down things. He has graciously volunteered to be the **Grand Marshall** of the **Walk for Youth fun fundraiser in January** and has loaned his **Olympic Torch** to many of the kids in the 5K Walk that he received while participating in the **1984 Olympics in Los Angeles** as one of the torch carriers from Ventura county.

The Christmas For Needy Families event is Wednesday, December 14, 4 to 5:30 at Las Posas School. Helpers are needed to set up, bring refreshments, help sign in guests, bring music, pass out gifts, etc. Donations to help pay for gifts to parents and family members can be given to Jeanette at the December 5th Optimist Club meeting.

Nov 21 - Tony Stafford, General Manager Camrosa Water District

With a service area of 31 square miles and residents totaling more than 30,000 in Camarillo and the Santa Rosa Valley in Ventura County, as the General Manager of the Camarosa Water District, **Tony Stafford** has an enormous responsibility. He has oversight of potable drinking water and non-potable surface water production and distribution as well as wastewater collection, treatment and water



recycling at the District's Water Reclamation Facility. He mentioned that the Camrosa Water District employs 21 staff members who maintain over 10,000 water and 7,500 sanitary service connections in the service area.

With the current multi-year drought affecting California, he noted that many challenges are facing local water districts. Tony was very generous in sharing his power point presentation and answering many questions and concerns members had. Let's be sure to keep those "rain dances" and do our part.

Our Optimist Club Holiday Potluck Dinner is set for 6:00 p.m., December 21 at Ron & Joyce Klemann's House—2612 Aloha Street (Corner of Temple and Aloha). Signups for items you can bring will be circulated at the next few meetings. Hope you can come by and enjoy the Holiday cheer...

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS—

December 5 - Angelica Ramsey - Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent, YWA and Walk for Youth Kickoff

12 - Jimmy Weldon - “Pirates”

14 - CHRISTMAS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES—4 TO 5:30 PM AT LAS POSAS SCHOOL

19 - Joyce Amer Recognition Day

21 - OPTIMIST CLUB CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER—6:00 P.M. AT RON & JOYCE KLEMMANN’S 2612 ALOHA STREET, CAMARILLO

26 - NO MEETING - Christmas Holidays

January 2 - NO MEETING - New Years Holiday

9 - TBA

16 - NO MEETING - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

23 - TBA

28 - 7TH ANNUAL 5K WALK FOR YOUTH FUN FUNDRAISING EVENT—9 TO 12 AT ARNEILL RANCH PARK

30 - Camarillo Chief of Police, Commander Chris Dunn

Filler—Senior Moments of Inspiration

—My goal for the rest of the year was to lose 10 pounds...only 15 to go.

—Ate salad for dinner...mostly croutons & tomatoes...really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce...and cheese...FINE, it was a pizza... I ate a pizza!

—I just did a week’s worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

—I don’t mean to brag but... I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours flat.

—A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

—Kids today don’t know how easy they have it... when I was young, I had to walk through 5 inches of shag carpet to change the TV channel.

