

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

Newsletter

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Editor in training: Ron Klemann



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



A Family Fun Christmas Party



Santa and his helpers were busy at Las Posas School...

The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club in collaboration with the the Pleasant Valley School District held their annual Christmas for Needy Families event at Las Posas School on December 14th. A number of families and kids identified by the school came to see Santa, do arts and crafts, enjoy refreshments, listen to holiday music and pick up gift cards. Thanks to the generosity of the club, extra member donations, the staff at PVSD and Target, each family received a \$100 gift card and each child was given a \$15 gift card. Santa gave each child a goodie bag stuffed with fruit, candy, toothbrushes, tooth paste, pencils, erasers, toys and much more.



The **Las Posas School principal, Dr. Vanessa Walker**, opened the multi-purpose room that was beautifully and seasonally decorated with student art work. **Dr. Angelica Ramsey**, district superintendent attendee at this event, brought donations from the PVSD staff and helped greet the visiting families. **Judy Crenshaw**, a retired PVSD teacher and veteran Needy Family event worker, coordinated the arts and crafts tables with fellow retired teachers—Mary Rockwell, Sharon Bellman, Joyce Klemann and Peggy Selek. **Janna Visser** and **Jeanett Bassett** coordinated the event and rounded up fellow Optimists to bring refreshments, supplies, goodie bags, music and lots of holiday spirit. **Frank Roth** was the man in the red suit and his two grandsons, **Danny and Sean**, were elves that helped Santa greet and pass out gifts and bags for the children.

Dec. 5 - Honor Student, Flag Raiser and More...

Maya Yates, a 6th grade student at Las Colinas Middle School, received the **Youth We Appreciate Award** from the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club at their December 5 meeting. **Chantelle Limon** presented the award, and **Janna Visser**, the YWA coordinator, made all the contacts and arrangements. **Mrs. Edie Robbins**, her teacher, shared some of the achievements and activities that made it easy to select Maya for this honor. She is a hard working, all “A’s” student, that helps others in class and, as the ASB Sergeant of Arms, raises and lowers the school flag each day. Maya is a Girl Scout Cadet, participates in Cinematic each year, runs cross country for Las Colinas, and is on a local gymnastic team. Supporting her at the Optimist Club were her parents, **Sarvpreet Baja and Todd Yates**; principal, **Eric Golden**; and **PVSD Superintendent, Dr. Angelica Ramsey**. In addition to the award certificate, Maya earned a \$100 gift for her school.



l-r: Eric Golden, principal; Maya Yates, YWA; Chantelle Limon, Optimist Club presenter; Edie Robbins, teacher; and Dr. Angelica Ramsey, PVSD Superintendent.

Dr. Angelica Ramsey, PVSD Superintendent, was inducted as the newest member of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club. She took time to share a beautiful, touching and informative slide show of her personal life with music from the song —“Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Too, she presented some history and an assessment of the PVSD today, her goals, some current plans, challenges, and more that she is happily looking forward to in the months ahead.

She began her career as a classroom teacher and has served as an assistant principal, a principal and superintendent. Dr. Ramsey earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Liberty University and published a



dissertation entitled *Nuestra Voz: A Critical Ethnographic Study of Latina Principals*. She received an educational specialist degree from Liberty University. Also, she holds a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas at El Paso and a bachelor's degree in film studies from the University of the Pacific. No wonder she had a great bio and PVSD presentation!

Her core values include which include “student priority, teamwork, professionalism, hard work and accountability” have been described as a “match for the district” by

one of the board members. The students, district employees and members of the community are lucky to have Dr. Ramsey at the helm.

Dec. 12 - YWA Service And Leadership To Others

Sydney Heitman, a 6th grade student at St. Mary Magdalen School, received the Youth We Appreciate Award from the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club at their meeting at Round Table Pizza. Mr. Simon Bass, her teacher, noted that Sydney is a high achieving student that watches out to make sure her classmates are learning and growing, too! Faculty and staff recognize her as someone always willing to say yes when asked to step in and help. She volunteers as a lector that leads school Masses, is involved in a wide range of other school activities, and is an accomplished tennis player. Joining her for the award presentation and lunch were her principal, Michael Ronan; and her parents, Eric and Barbara Heitman. **4**



l-r: Michael Ronan, principal; Simon Bass, teacher; Sydney Heitman, YWA; and Chantelle Limon, Optimist Club presenter

Jimmy Weldon shares the “Pirates” of the War of 1812...With the help of a slide show with voice narration, sound effects and music, Jimmy took the Optimist Club members and guests back to the battles that inspired the Star Spangled Banner and many of the interesting characters that fought to win the war. He shared the agreement that Andrew Jackson made with the, at that time, notorious pirate—Jean Lafitte and his ships and men—to help defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Although the War was officially over at the time—the message was late in arriving from Washington, D.C.—the British were soundly defeated and Lafitte and his men were pardoned from that time on.

Jimmy took the time to send a signed copy of his book—Go Get ‘Em Tiger—and seven CDs from his collection including wonderful “Memory Lane” songs, “A Pirate Saves America,” “Frank Sinatra Sings”, “Feel Good Songs of Yesteryear”, and more for members to borrow when they come and go to our Monday meetings. Jimmy sure has been a wonderful, kind and inspirational friend to us for many years!



Dec. 19 - "A Tribute to Joyce Amer—An Optimist With Love, Kindness and Kids at Heart"



Many thanks to all of you who helped make the Monday meeting special for Joyce Amer. I know she was touched and very grateful for all the kind words and remembrances that were shared by members and friends. A special thanks goes to **Howard Hoover** for organizing the presentations and sharing a wonderful list of events, activities and projects that he and Joyce have done together in the Optimist Club over many years. Too, **Janna Visser** deserves a big thank you for

bringing the cake and flowers and sharing many of the school, community, country and beyond activities the Camarillo area **JOI Clubs** do. Joyce Amer has been instrumental in starting and growing the JOI Clubs that the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club sponsors. A big thank you is extended to **RaeAnne**



Michaels, David Stone, Ada Lee Sullivan, Jeanette Bassett, Ron Klemann and Frank Roth for their tributes to Joyce.

For those of you who were not present Jeanette Bassett presented Joyce with the **Christian D. Larson Award** and noted that a \$1000 gift was donated to this foundation in her name. Mr. Larson is credited with writing the Optimist

Creed. Although Joyce is retiring from the club, she says she will be supporting and helping out wherever she can, so expect to see her at our meetings and upcoming events as a “Friend of Youth” for some time to come.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK-Dec. 21 — Many thanks to all the Optimists, spouses, friends and guests who brought a wonderful and delicious array of appetizers, main dishes, desserts, etc. and their Holiday Cheer!!! Thanks, too, to the Klemann ladies for doing the Christmas medley of songs to entertain us. Guess who forgot to take pictures...? We hope that all of you who could not make it because of illness or other reasons have a good holiday and **A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The Calendar for the Month Ahead—

January 2 - NO MEETING - New Years Holiday

9 - **Dave Norman--Camarillo City Manager**

16 - NO MEETING - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

19 - Optimist Club Board Meeting—5:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club

23 - **Nicole Ipach—CSUCI Vice President Advancement**

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

30 - **Chris Dunn—Camarillo Police Chief**

