

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

Newsletter



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Editor: Roger Ransom , 484 2614

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



Wed Wibbon Works Wonders

Optimists Honor Red Ribbon Week Writing Contestants

The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club in cooperation with the Pleasant Valley School District honored the winners of the 8th Annual Red Ribbon Week Writing Contest at Dos Caminos School on Nov. 12. The contestants wrote on the theme “**Respect Yourself. Be Drug Free.**” Students, grades 3 to 8, in all the schools in the Camarillo area were eligible to participate. **Ada Lee Sullivan**, president of the Optimist Club, shared the history of Red Ribbon Week and awarded certificates and gift cards to all the winners. **Dr. Kris DeVillers**, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, PVSD, announced the names of the winners and the schools they attend.



The first place winners were: **Jacqueline Abutin** (3rd grade, Los Primeros School of Sciences and Arts); **Alexis Long** (4th grade, La Mariposa); **Dylan Zulueta** (5th grade, CAPE); **Madison Ruby** (6th grade, Monte Vista); **Avery Tanaka** (7th grade, St. Mary Magdalen); and **Cece Wong** (8th grade, Cornerstone

Christian). Each first place winner received a \$50 gift certificate. The second place winners were: **Emerson Voshell** (3rd grade, CAPE); **Emmy Tanada** (5th grade, St. Mary Magdalen); **Kalixta Basua** (6th grade, University Charter); **Emily Chang** (7th grade, Monte Vista); and **Isabel Cox** (8th grade, CAPE). The second place winners received a \$35 gift certificate. The third place winners were: **Kai Kanongataa** (3rd grade, Camarillo Height Stern Academy); **Lovi Jones** (4th grade, Las Posas); Grant Huff (5th grade, Santa Rosa Technology Magnet); **Talia Alamillo** (6th grade, CAPE); **Dina Tyo** (7th grade, CAPE); and **Cassidy Carter** (8th grade, St. Mary Magdalen).

Janna Visser, Jeanette Bassett, and other Optimist Club members provided refreshments for everyone. All winners were recognized at the next Pleasant Valley School District Board meeting on November 19.

President's Message



This has been an active start to our new year. We have had some great speakers. We are so fortunate to find these interesting people doing interesting things. They are inspiring. We are getting started on a busy year. The Red Ribbon Week essay contest and awards ceremony went really well. The assistance that we get with our PSVD partners is amazing. The Koeze Nuts program is well under way.

It is good to have **Luci Pommers** and **Stan Daily** back at our meetings. I hope they continue to improve and feel better
Ada Lee

Recent Programs

5 October Boys & Girls Club



Roberto Martinez - Interim CEO Camarillo Boys & Girls Club opened his speech with a thanks to our very own **Shig Yabu** for making the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club happen. He stressed with much enthusiasm that their goal is to develop children that have confidence that will lead to success. He stated that he feels each child needs these things in order to be successful:

- Expectations that are known for both the child and the B&G Club
- To develop skills that are meaningful
- To be recognized
- To have healthy relationships, both in the home and outside the home

He told us that a one year membership for a child is \$100/year for the 1st child and \$60/year for the next child. This membership provides each child with everyday of after school care. Day camp – summers and holidays – is \$15 for the 1st child, \$10 for the 2nd child and \$5 for each additional child. In addition they ‘never’ have turned away a child of a family that could not afford the care.

A daily after school program looks like this:

- All homework done and checked
- Each child is encouraged to do some physical or learning event such as music, legos, for the engineering skill, cooking, arts and crafts, sports
- A child is sent home with homework done, energy used up and/or a new skill learned
- A child at home is supposed to ready for dinner, bath, family night time activities, and no unnecessary stress added to the child’s and parent’s day

19 October Charter School



Stacey Roth, a teacher and education specialist with Opportunities For Learning (OFL), presented information about this large charter school. OFL is one of the oldest charter schools in California and now has campuses in several other states. OFL is an independent study charter school for students in middle school and high school. There are classes at the campuses but the work can be done at home or online in some cases. The main focus is “at-risk” children, to assist those that are failing in the traditional school setting with different approaches to the standard schedule. OFL also serves other students where the traditional 5-day school week does not work for them such as actors, dancers, athletes, and children of the same.

These students can enroll at any time of the year. They do their work, turn it in and get credit and can eventually graduate or in some cases return to traditional school. OFL provides advisors and counselors. They provide small group and online instructions. The teachers work one-on-one with the students and develop strong relationships and often times provide a “safe place” for some of the at-risk students. The students can enroll in A-G courses that satisfy requirements for college entrance.

OFL also provides summer school for local area school district students. Many school districts no longer provide summer school. Over 1600 students attended summer school at OFL this past summer.

For Stacey, the most rewarding aspect is the relationships that develop with the students. Many of these students have very difficult lives with little or no support at home. Helping them realize their potential, feel safe and succeed makes it most worthwhile.

26 October Meet a fellow Optimist



Maria Waggoner, long time member of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club, owner of the **Mark-It-Place**, and very giving member to the community shared some of her biography with members and guests. She is very well-known and appreciated by the Optimist Club members for generously doing the engraving, lettering and monogramming of the many plaques, trophies, gifts, banners, etc. given out to deserving students and participants of the events sponsored by the club throughout the year. Of course this is only a very small part of the work she does for the community. The Mark-It-Place has won numerous awards over the years for being an outstanding and successful business in the area. Most recently the Camarillo

Chamber of Commerce gave them the **Business of the Year Award!**

Maria and her parents moved to Ventura County from Chicago when she was in the sixth grade. Her dad was stationed in Camarillo when he was in the US Air Force and fell in love with the climate and beauty of the area. After the family moved to Camarillo she attended and graduated from Rio Mesa HS and later attended Moorpark College. She met and married her husband, **Bob**, shortly after finishing college. They have three adult children. **Robert**, who is currently the principal of Tierra Linda School and a member of the Optimist Club. He has generously supported the **JOOI Club** for the school, marched in the Camarillo Christmas Parade and participated in the Walk for Youth among many other activities. **Christina**, the older daughter, is a teacher in the area. **Michelle**, the youngest, has been working at the Mark-It-Place with her mom and others for years. Michelle is about to graduate from CLU in Thousand Oaks. Each of Maria's three children are happily married and have a couple of children of their own. For the many years of providing uniforms, trophies and support to the Girls Softball League in Camarillo, Maria was asked to throw out the first pitch this spring! We are very proud that Maria is a member of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club.

2 November The Sounds and Sights of Africa



Jim Tancreto and his wife, **Peg**, shared their March 2014 trip to Capetown, South Africa, the plains of Botswana, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, and many other special places in these countries. Jim, who received his Civil Engineer degree from UC Berkeley and masters from University of Washington while working for the Boeing Co. for 5 years and then working 34 years for the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center in Port Hueneme, very artfully created a DVD of their trip complete with photos, action pieces, music and local sounds. The close-up shots of many of the animals were remarkable. Jim researched the names of the birds—some most unique and strikingly

colorful—he photographed and added them to each of the pictures. His tour guides and aides helped get them close to all the animals in the wild and provided them with comfortable and well provisioned accommodations each night. Their trip was arranged through Wild Source—African Safaris from Golden Colorado. We regret that there was not more time to view all of the DVD sounds and sights of Africa.



9 November Santa Paula Museum



History Is Her Thing

Megan Gately, Director of Education and Outreach at the Museum of Ventura County, shared pictures and video shots of many interesting sites, stories, facts and characters from the history of Ventura County. **Megan**, who has both a bachelors and master's degree in history and education from her college days in Arizona, was born in Solvang, CA, and went to Thousand Oaks High School when her mom worked at the local Kinkos. Before signing on at the Museum of Ventura County, she had a few short stints teaching high school math and history in Arizona and doing museum work in Minnesota.

Among other historical facts about the San Buenaventura Mission (the 9th built in California), she noted that the bells at the Mission were made out of wood because metal bells were too expensive. She singled out **Padre Juan Comapla**, who supported the Chumash natives and cared for the Church faithful in Ventura, for the many contributions he made to preserving and cleaning up the Mission during the years it was transitioning from a small Spanish community to become the City of Ventura. **Megan** invited all the Optimists and friends present to come to the Museum of Ventura County as a group or individually to enjoy some of the upcoming special programs. See their website—www.venturamuseum.org—for specific programs, dates and times. Her lively, animated presentation clearly demonstrated the joy that she derives from delving into history. It seemed to be contagious to us, her listeners.

16 November Can't Is Not In My Vocabulary



Marilyn Takahashi Fordney (now Mrs. **Sandor Havasi** since Nov. 2004) shared some of her growing up and learning experiences as a Japanese-American in California. Though we had expected that her talk would be largely on her experience as a Japanese internee in WW II, she barely mentioned that. Marilyn began taking ballet and tap dance lessons at the age of 12 and joined a summer dance troupe. Her interest in dance was interrupted when her high school years and career headed toward the medical assisting field where she performed administrative and clinical duties for 14 years. She taught college and adult education

courses for 19 years, and in 1979 became a Certified Medical Transcriptionist. Her experience qualified her to author or co-author more than 70 books on Administrative Medical Assisting and related subjects! All are colorfully listed in her website: www.fordneyfoundation.org.

Things did not always go smoothly in her life. Shortly after getting married to her first husband, her home burned down destroying all her possessions—front page news of the L.A. Times—in September 1970. Even though her career kept her very busy working in the medical administrative field teaching and writing, she never gave up her dream of dancing. In 2002 she began to dance competitively in International and American pro-am ballroom dances, and in May of that year she established the Fordney Foundation for DanceSport for amateur youths, ages 6 to 25. As if establishing one foundation was not enough, in 2008, Marilyn and her husband Sandor started the Havasi Wilderness Foundation (website: www.havasiwf.org) to educate the public with respect to the importance of protecting and preserving nature and our ecosystems. This program has made it possible for thousands of children and disadvantaged adults to visit state or national parks to learn about nature and find pleasure in a healthier lifestyle.



To help set the mood for Marilyn's WWII era life, Shig Yabu invited Tom Kuznkowski back to our meeting (We enjoyed his ukelele and mini-banjo playing last November, too, when was the presenter.) to play and sing classics like "Don't Fence Me In" and "You Are My Sunshine," among others. A good sing along was enjoyed by all..

New Teachers Gifts

On Tuesday, October 6th, **Debbie Maki**, **Howard Hoover** and **Ada Lee** toured the local PVSD schools to deliver gift bags that included the **Optimist Club** gift of \$200 for each new teacher, teachers that had never taught before. There were 15 teachers and we delivered to 12 of them. It was really fun going from school to school. We got to chat with the principals and visit the classrooms. The teachers were unaware of the gifts so it was a surprise to them. It was fun for us and for the students. The teachers and students were very appreciative. We have received numerous thank you notes from the teachers. **Ada Lee** remarks: As the mother of two teachers, I know what a great program this is and what a help it is to these new teachers.



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18 November Cape School Tour



AdaLee, Jeanette Bassett, Joyce Amer, Roger & Nora Ransom and Howard enjoyed a guided tour of **CAPE Charter School** this past Wednesday morning. **Doreen Learned** and **Mary Ellen Lang**, the directors, led us around the entire campus explaining how the school operates, academically, administratively and financially. It was enlightening and we are now probably a little more familiar with charter schools. Just like district schools, they are not all created equally, some are

better than others. **CAPE** is great. They are ranked 7th both fiscally and academically among charter schools in California. Attending the school is great because children are just wonderful. But, you should also attend a school board meeting. That is where **CAPE** really shines. It is an education in itself.

At our recent Board Meeting we had a serious discussion: We Optimists meet at **Round Table Pizza**, a “For profit” business of our free enterprise system. They have to make a profit to stay in business. We have to patronize them if they are to make a profit. We agonized over what we might do to increase the number of our members that buy a lunch on Mondays. Failure to boost this number puts us in serious jeopardy of losing our free meeting place. We didn’t arrive at a solution, but you can expect the topic to be brought up at future Monday meetings.

The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club now has a website - www.camarillooptimistclub.org - It is updated regularly. With luck, this 21st century tool will soon obsolete this decrepit Newsletter so that you will have more reliable info which is always current. We can then retire both the Newsletter and its editor.

Coming Attractions:

Nov. 23 - Megan Voshel, Executive Director & Svenja Schulze, Membership & Marketing Director
Camarillo YMCA

Nov. 30 - No Meeting - Thanksgiving Holiday Break

Dec. 7 - Relive that “Date that will live in infamy”

Dec. 14 - RaeAnne Michael - PVSD Superintendent

Dec. 21 - No Meeting - Christmas Holiday

Dec. 28 - No Meeting - Christmas & New Year's Day

Dec. 8 Christmas Program for needy families

Jan. 30, 2016 Walk for Youth

Mar. 10, 2016 - Youth Banquet

May 13, 2016 Golf Tournament

Filler

A young woman visits her parents and brings her fiancé to meet them. After an elaborate dinner, the mother tells her husband to find out about the young man. The father invites the fiancée to his library for a drink. "So what are your plans?" The father asks the young man. "I am a Torah scholar." He says. "A Torah scholar, Hmmm," the father says. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she is accustomed to?" "I will study," the young man said, and God will provide for us." "And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asks the father. "I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replies, "God will provide for us." "And children?" asks the father. "How will you support children?" "Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancé. The conversation continues like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insist that God will provide. Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, Honey?" The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is he thinks I'm God."

His father sends a small boy to bed.

Five minutes later....

"Da-ad...."

"What?" "I'm thirsty. Can you bring drink of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out."

Five minutes later: "Da-aaaad....."

"WHAT?"

"I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water??"

"I told you NO!!" If you ask again, I'll have to spank you!!"

Five minutes later....."Daaaa-aaaad....."

"WHAT!"

"When you come in to spank me, Can you bring me a glass of water?"

A suggestion from a Human Resources Manager:
HOW TO PROPERLY PLACE NEW EMPLOYEES . . .

1. Put 400 bricks in a closed room.
2. Put your new hires in the room and close the door.
3. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours.
4. Then analyze the situation:
 - a. If they are counting the bricks, put them in the Accounting Department.
 - b. If they are recounting them, put them in Auditing.
 - c. If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in Engineering.
 - d. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.
 - e. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.
 - f. If they are sleeping, put them in Security.
 - g. If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology.
 - h. If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources.
 - i. If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved, put them in Sales.
 - j. If they have already left for the day, put them in Management.
 - k. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning.
 - l. If they are talking to each other, and not a single brick has been moved, congratulate them and put them in Top Management.
 - m. Finally, if they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor heard from, put them in Congress.

A woman decided to have her portrait painted. She told the artist, "Paint me with diamond rings, a diamond necklace, emerald bracelets, a ruby brooch, and gold Rolex."

"But you are not wearing any of those things," he replied.

"I know," she said. "It's in case I should die before my husband. I'm sure he will remarry right away, and I want his new wife to go crazy looking for the jewelry."