

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

Newsletter

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



In Memory of Shirley Seaver Will Seaver II gave this tribute to Jeanette Bassett who read it to the Optimist Club members on August 1st:

Here is my "Love Letter" to my mom. It's focus is to show a lot of my mother that people didn't know. I really wish I could be there, it's such a great thing for my mom.

When Shirley Seaver was a young girl, she had ailments that didn't allow her to attend school for a period of time or be able to play with her friends afterwards. Shirley turned to books to be her companions and became an avid reader. Later, her father built rings inside their garage and Shirley would play on them for hours by herself. Her future husband, Bill Seaver, had a similar experience being raised on a large ranch, with primarily only himself to be with after school. This



ability to be comfortable by themselves helped form their strong bond over the course of their lives.

Bill and Shirley met while Bill was attending U. C. Davis and Shirley lived in Sacramento. Shirley would take the train to Oakland and they would go to Bill's family home in Hayward. For their dates, they would often drive to San Francisco to see live theater. Their love of theater lasted their entire lives. Shirley also talked about the time she arrived at the Oakland train station and seeing Bill and knowing he was "the one". They got married in 1952 and after the Korean War, they came to Oxnard where Bill would start his teaching career. Their son, Will, was already born and soon, Tom, Julia, and Ellen, would follow. In 1963, they moved to Camarillo into a beautiful home. Here Bill & Shirley planted many fruit trees, a long with vegetable & flower gardens. It was a very big part of their lives, spending hours maintaining the fruit trees and gardens. In the mid seventies, they planted a large amount of cucumbers and Shirley made dill pickles out of them. These pickles had a great flavor and Shirley would label each jar with date of the pickling. Her son Will, still has a jar that was dated July 4, 1976.

Throughout this time, Shirley was very dedicated to helping her kids both in school and their activities. She also volunteered for them and in the community. Once the kids had moved out of the house, Shirley & Bill began to do a lot more for themselves. They traveled to different parts of the world and took domestic trips. When Bill traveled to conferences for work, Shirley would come a long. On their vacations, not only did they fully enjoy the opportunities of that setting, but they loved the little moments. Shirley often talked about the little moments in all the different locations they traveled. They made appreciating and participating in the little moments a habit, like driving to a conference and pulling over for a picnic or exploring the local areas after the meetings. But often their best little moments were at the home. They would make a bowl of popcorn or have a glass of wine and sit on the patio and enjoy each other's company. They would often have dinner under a carob tree in the back yard or by candle light on the back patio. They would watch the blue birds, hawks and listen to the owls.

Shirley loved the arts and culture in general and it was a huge part of her life. She and Bill would often go to the Hollywood Bowl, theater at the Ahmanson, Mark Taper, and Pantages Theaters, art exhibits at LACMA, and later regularly attended events at Pepperdine. When they became older, they attended plays at the Santa Paula Theater. But at the heart of her love of the arts was both her eye for what was quality work and her appreciation of the form. She didn't go into elaborate explanations, but she would know and tell you what was good. She knew by her intelligence and intuition.

But it goes much greater than this. Deep down, my mother was an artist. You initially see it by walking around the house and looking at all the pictures, antiques, and collectibles that she put out and how she put them out. Her unique eye, appreciation, and recognition of beauty and quality are seen everywhere. You know all of this is my mother and yet it also reflects on her life with my father and our family. You saw it in so many other ways, as well. My mother collected Santa Clauses of different shapes and mediums and at Christmas, the house would be filled with different looking Santa Clauses. She did this with ceramic frogs, and she had them both inside and outside the house. Another simple, yet one of the best expressions was her setting of the dinner table for family or social gatherings. A beautiful center piece, surrounded by smaller pieces and objects that enhanced the focus and the beauty of the setting. We saw this many times a year, sometimes with just 2 or 3 people eating. But there are two personal examples. Every Christmas, my mother would buy shirts for me to wear both casually and nice occasions.

They had a very good look to them and matched up well with me. Those are the shirts that I wear now, in fact, I haven't bought a shirt personally in many years. Whenever I would come home, I would mention the shirt and say "Styles by Shirley". Lastly, my mother was a beautiful woman. You see that in pictures of her when she was young and all the way into the present. But it was her eye for fashion for herself that made her stand out. She always knew what clothing combinations would look good on her. She chose wisely and again it was her intelligence and intuition that made what she wore be equal to her great beauty.

The essence of my mother and what her family appreciated so much was who she was. It was a personality that quietly knew what she liked or didn't like. This pertained to her daily activities and the process of doing things. She had her approach and that's how she was going to do it. It was a quiet, yet determined way. This was also true with the people in her life. My mother had her friends and associates but like all people there were some she couldn't be around- whether due to personality conflicts or differences in their nature. Once she reached that conclusion, she wouldn't have a confrontation or let things drag out, she would end the association and move on with her life. It was better to do things on her terms, than compromise with people who were detrimental or imposing negative actions. We loved that about her even more. It was a quiet, yet defined personality. It sometimes appeared she was a loner or by herself. But again, she had learned the hard lessons of solitude in her youth and was content in reading, gardening, and watching a movie on the Turner Classics station.



Will Seaver on August 1 when Jeanette Bassett read his tribute to his mom

But the bigger picture, was that she was dedicated and loved each family member, including the grand kids, a great deal. There were always going to be conflicts and differences in energies and personalities-but she was a hugely committed mother and grandmother. She was very much there for all of us and being there was as important to her as anything in her life. For me personally, when I had badly damaged the relationship with my father, it was my mother who

kept me a part of the family. But I'm also going to disclose that my mother and I, for most of our lives, had a real tight bond. It was a natural connection and just easy. My mother and I could talk for hours.

Often there are gems in our lives that we over look or take for granted. Because my mother was reserved, more low profile than my father, and often did so much creative and other expressions in the privacy of her home and with family- most people didn't know or recognize her specialness. But from the viewpoint of a son, as the years went by, I not only increasingly began to see and appreciate her gifts- more importantly, I wanted and needed to be around those gifts and her being, more and more. In some ways, it is heartbreaking that more people didn't know or recognize her talents, and even more heartbreaking that she didn't get to use those talents more. But Shirley felt she had lived a great life.

Shirley Seaver was a small, little master, who did her great works by herself and for the benefit of her family. Content and happy simply with the expression of doing, not with the need of recognition. Doing things a lone, like she had been forced too as a child, but in that solitude, finding contentment.

August 8 Meeting Our guest speakers for the day were **Debbie Maki** and **Robert Wagner**.



Each shared some of their bios and the year ahead plans at their respective jobs.

Debbie, who last year coordinated the PVSD's English learner, migrant student and preschool programs, was hired this month as the district's director of curriculum, instruction and assessment. She has been helping the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club with their involvement in new teacher stipends, the Red Ribbon Week Writing Contest, Christmas for Needy Families, and other activities in the past. Debbie was the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year in 2006.

She was born in Modesto, CA, and moved to Thousand Oaks her 2nd year of high school. She graduated from Fresno State and, while working in the district's curriculum office, earned a master's degree and an administrative credential. She spent 14 years as a teacher in the district, first at Las Posas Elementary School and then Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School before being tapped as an administrator. She and her husband, Sean, live in Thousand Oaks and have a 21-year-old son, Greg, who is away at Cal State University San Marcos. For fun Debbie enjoys reading, arts and crafts, and travel books.

Robert Waggoner, principal at Tierra Linda School, has been a longtime Camarillo resident. He started school at Valle Lindo, attended Monte Vista and went on to Moorpark College and Humboldt State. Later he earned his teaching credential at UCSB and masters at Cal State University Channel Islands. His mom, **Maria Waggoner** who runs **The Mark-It-Place**, is a longtime member of the Optimist Club, and has been most generous and giving of her time and resources to help make the many youth directed activities successful. Robert's younger

sister, Michelle just graduated from CLU and works at the Mark-It-Place when she can. Robert also has another sister Christina Culp. His dad, Bob, was in the Army stationed in Nuremberg, Germany, with his mom when Robert was born. Robert's wife, Michele, teaches 4th grade at Mesa Union School. They have two children, Annabelle 7yrs and Robert 3yrs. He spends his free time coaching T-ball to his son and nephew at the YMCA, enjoys woodworking.

Robert shared a very touching and memorable video of school children at Valle Lindo School this year telling their classmates about their fathers. He showed how important it is to bring kids, parents, teachers and school together for a great learning environment. As an Optimist Club member, Robert, has helped support and sponsor a very vibrant Junior Optimist Club at the school.

August 15 Meeting

Kris DeVillers, Ed.D., PVSD assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and assessment, and one of several new Optimist Club members, shared some of her early years in Wenatchee Valley, WA, and experiences that led her to Ventura County. With lots of apple and cherry orchards around her home, Kris climbed trees and learned how to drive a tractor early on.

After graduating high school in 1981 she drove to Camarillo with a girl friend and attended Ventura College and later Cal State Northridge. She met her future husband, Richard, when she first arrived in Camarillo in her flashy 1971

Triumph GT! Her first career was in banking and spent some time in Chicago before returning to California.

When she returned to this area she worked as a classroom volunteer while still employed in the business world and so enjoyed working with children that she went back to school to earn a teaching credential. After years of classroom experience, post-graduate education and administrative experience Kris was hired by RaeAnne Michael, past PVSD Superintendent, to fill her current assignment. She is committed to the district goals "of engaging students in higher learning and having them grow to their full potential..."

She has come a long way from driving her 1971 T... car to her new very eco-friendly electric and sporty T... car manufactured here in California.



August 22, Meeting Mike Mishler, Board President of the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District

provided an informative, interesting and well-prepared presentation on the history, services, accomplishments and challenges of this special district. He explained how special districts as compared to city or county park & rec departments may have boundaries larger than cities where funds are only used for the rec & park district.

He noted that there are 28 well-



watered and maintained parks (the water bill is 10% of their total budget) within the 45 square mile district area boundary which includes Santa Rosa Valley, CSUCI, and to the east touching Newbury Park.

The Pleasant Valley Fields is considered one of the top five soccer parks in Southern California bringing many teams and their families on weekends that fill local hotels and increase restaurant and retail sales for the community. As a result the City of Camarillo benefits from increased lodging and sales tax. 1 million people attended organized PVRPD programs last year! It has been a challenge, but the Parks District has balanced their budgets the past 4 years. Checkout the “Fall Activity Guide” for PVRPD at www.pvrpd.org for everything from “Spooky Swim Night” to “Adult Sports Leagues.”



left—Pleasant Valley Aquatic Center, above left—Pleasant Valley Fields Sports Complex, above right Springville Dog Park

President's Message for the Month of August



It was so good to see many of our members return from our "vacation" in July. We are getting ready for the 2016-17 school year to begin and we will get very busy.

Unfortunately, we lost some members in the last few months. Shirley Seaver passed away and we will all miss her. We were fortunate to meet her son, Will, at our first August meeting. Marci Nunn dropped her membership and we will all miss her at our meetings and events. We wish her the best.

Howard Hoover, Jeanette Bassett, Ron Klemann and I met with our new Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent, Dr. Angelica Ramsey. She is young and enthusiastic, and she looks forward to working with us and is going to join our club. We had a great meeting. We have seen her around the community and she is excited about joining the Camarillo community as a whole.

Our Awards and Installation Dinner is Friday, September 30th. I hope that you all will attend. It is a great way to start our new fiscal year. We will celebrate our Educator, Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year as well as honor some of our own.

Thank you all for a great year.

Ada Lee Sullivan

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Speakers

August 22 - Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks - Mike Mishler

August 29 - Health Breakthrough - John Chamberlin

September 5 - No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday

September 12 - David Smith, topic TBA

September 19 - Ventura County Grand Jury Speaker TBA

September 26 - Candidate for Camarillo City Council - Matt Lorimer

October 3 - Candidate for Camarillo City Council - Tony Trembley

October 10 - No Meeting - Columbus Day Holiday

October 17 - Candidate for Camarillo City Council - Bill Little

October 24 - Candidate for Camarillo City Council - Jameson Lingl

October 31 - Candidate for Camarillo City Council - Kevin Kildee

CHECK OUR WEBSITE—www.camarillooptimistclub.org—for the latest info

SAVE THE DATE AND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016-2017

**Fri., Sep. 30, 2016, AWARDS AND INSTALLATION DINNER—Boys and Girls Club
6:30 pm**

Nov., Koeze Nut Holiday Gift and Candy Sale—Fundraiser

Nov. TBA, 2016, RED RIBBON WRITING CONTEST—School TBA

Dec. TBA, 2016, CHRISTMAS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM—Las Posas School

Sat., Jan. 28, 2017, WALK FOR YOUTH Fun Fundraiser—Arneill Ranch Park

Thurs., Mar. TBA, 2017, YOUTH BANQUET—Camarillo Civic Center

Fri., May 5, 2017, OPTIMIST GOLF TOURNAMENT—Sterling Hills CC

Filler—Men Are Just Happier People—What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.

Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$5,000. Tux rental \$100. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Two pairs of shoes are more than enough.

You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years. Maybe decades. You only have to share your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. One wallet and one pair of shoes—one color for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can do your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on Dec. 14 in 25 minutes. No wonder men are happier!

Did you ever wonder?—Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

—Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

—Why you never see the headline, "Psychic wins lottery?"

—Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

—Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

—Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

—Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called "rush hour"?

Thank you for sending in your pictures, story items, jokes and latest news pieces to help make our Optimist Club Newsletter informative and fun.

