

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

Newsletter

April 29, 2016

Editor: Roger Ransom (when computer is not down), Ron Klemann, Temp.



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



Optimist Essay Contest Winners “Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction” Mike Kroll, coordinator; ACHS, Dylan Reese, Trophy Winner; Alexander Li, Bronze Winner; Rio Mesa HS, Francisco Perez, Silver Winner; Chantelle Limon, presenter.





Fare Thee Well, Stan Daily

Much has been said and written about the man that was Stan Daily. He was Mayor Emeritus of Camarillo. He was a recipient of dozens of well deserved awards, most of which were chronicled by his family in the obituary. One that seems to have been omitted, was his designation by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce as the first "Pillar Of Our Community." And that, he most certainly was: a pillar of the City of Camarillo. Other than Don Adolfo Camarillo himself, I believe that Stan had more influence than any other person in the shaping of the City of Camarillo, starting with the very idea of incorporating this area as a city in the first place. It is all recorded in his tome of a book "Camarillo And Other Remembrances."

Stan was a cheerful, outgoing, optimistic individual. And so he fittingly became a card carrying Optimist, in that he joined our club in or around 1990. That is all chronicled in the book as well. (Pages 434-435) If you haven't read that far in the story, I invite you to do so. Many of you will probably be surprised to see your names mentioned there.

And that is what strikes me most about Stan. He made it a point, always, to give credit where it was due. He was a uniter, not a divider. He truly liked and appreciated people. If it could be said of him that he was a politician rather than a public servant, though he preferred the latter, then he was a politician who would be called a statesman. One could also readily classify him as "Reaganesque."

Stan's passing marks the end of an era, not only for his friends and family, but for all of Camarillo. Rest in Peace, Mr. Mayor Emeritus. By Janna Visser

In lieu of flowers, the Daily family has asked donations be made to one of these organizations:
Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Museum P.O. Box 570 Camarillo, CA 93011
Ventura County Retired Teacher Association Scholarship Foundation P.O. 1766, Cam., CA 93011
Noontime Optimist Scholarship Fund P.O. 1884 Camarillo, CA 93011

March 21—Mike Mishler—New Optimist Club Member

In an effort to get to know some of our five new members better, Mike Mishler volunteered to tell us about his family, education, work experiences, community service and more with a wonderful slide presentation and stories. His father, who had roots in Iowa, was drafted during WWII while working in an airplane factory in San Diego. He was sent to Egypt and, because of his airplane experience, continued to work with planes there earning the rank of Master Sergeant. Instead of returning home after the war, his dad took a job with Middle East Airlines based in Beirut, Lebanon. It was there that he married the first airline stewardess of the company—a native of Turkey.

The couple moved to San Diego where Mike was born and went to school, eventually graduating from San Diego State as a geologist. He went on to earn Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering and Geology. He has worked in a number of fields and places—the Arctic area of Alaska; Houston, Texas (where he commuted weekly for 5 years to Camarillo and back to be with his family!); Santa Barbara, oil platforms; Thousand Oaks, Exxon Headquarters; among others. He has lived in Camarillo with his wife, Donna, who recently passed away, and his two grown children—Dennis and Bree. Mike has given much of his time and business skills to serving the local community. He has been heavily involved with AYSO Soccer and volunteered to coach Camarillo High School JV teams, among many other community activities. Currently Mike is serving as President of the Camarillo Recreation and Parks Board. The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club is very fortunate to have Mike as a new member.



Saving a
Polar Bear cub in
Alaska



Mike and his wife, Donna, on vacation above;
Jeanette Bassett, Mike's sponsor, left

Mar. 21 - A Superquiz Team Leader

Vedasahiti Mallidi, a fifth-grade student from Las Posas School, was honored by the Camarillo Optimist Club as the Youth We Appreciate recipient on March 21. Her teacher, Mrs. Katrina Salas, noted that “Sahi,” as she is called by her friends and teachers, won the School Spelling Bee and took 1st place in the CAO Speech competition. As a CAO Superquiz team member she came to school an hour early every day to prepare for the competition. As a member of the Junior Optimist Club, she has participated in the school canned food drive, prepared a speech for the Veteran’s Day celebration, and assists with the school garden.

In her spare time she practices Tae Kwon Do and plays a variety of music on the piano. Her parents and principal, Mrs. Sue Sigler, shared lunch with Sahi, age 10, during her award presentation by Mrs. Janna Visser, Optimist Club member and “Camarillo Senior of the Year.” She earned a \$100 gift for her school.



Apr. 4 - Dean Amundsen, OD, Speaker

It was revealed that Dean is a former member of our club and received the Optimist of the Year designation in the late 80’s. He graduated from Southern California College of Optometry in 1984 and has been in private practice since 1985. He was introduced by Howard Hoover. His topic was “Eyes” as he is an optometrist. More specifically, he addressed what happens with our eyes as we age.

In our 40’s we tend to lose focusing due to protein in the lens becoming less supple, requiring glasses. In our 50’s vitreous detachment, floaters and retinol detachment can be problems. Cataracts crop up in our 60’s, and half of us need surgery by our 80’s.

Later, macular degeneration can lead to blindness. Nutritional supplements are often used, but not without controversy. Good foods for healthy eyes are spinach, kale, and red and orange peppers. Sun glasses are a must and special glasses to filter out blue light waves are recommended as well.



**Annual Youth Benefit Golf
Tournament and Dinner is
Friday, May 13th—Our biggest
fundraiser of the year!!!**

Apr. 11 - An Asset to Her School & More

Joie Steinkamp a 5th grade student at Camarillo Heights STEM Academy, was presented with the YWA certificate by Chantelle Limon at our regular Optimist Club meeting. Joie's teacher, Ms. Amanda Stitt, explained why Joie was chosen to receive this award. Joie excels in many areas. She works hard to achieve strong academic standards. She regularly gives of her time and talents to make her school and community a better place. Joie is an active member of the Jr. Optimist Club which provides services to the school and community. She helps and supports students with special needs and she is a steward of the environment at her school. Joie is also a softball player and she is active in dance.

In addition to Ms. Stitt, Joie brought her parents, David and Roxanne Steinkamp. The teacher received a monetary gift for the class room in Joie's honor.

It was evident that Joie is a charming, responsible young lady who is an important asset to her school.



One of his main speaking points about the teacher shortage was the impact of the ups and downs in the business cycles of the economy as well as the tax structure that is in place to provide for education. A big change in the latter was Proposition 13 which was passed in 1978 to the detriment of funding for education. The more recent Proposition 98 provided certain funds designate solely to the schools for a positive impact.

During the downturn in the economy starting in 2008, funding for schools was very limited and in addition to no new teachers being hired, there were also teacher layoffs. Fewer college students therefore chose teaching as a career and we have not really recovered from that shortage. In addition, one half of the educators currently in the class rooms are eligible for retirement.

There are several programs in place to help recruit new teachers. A paradigm to offer a credtional pathway to para educators is being resurrected from the 1990's. The additional advantage is that these candidates are likely to be successful teachers as they already know the classroom routine. Another approach to prevent new teachers from leaving the profession, is to have paid mentors available.

Mr. Simmons reminded us now is peak hiring season. Teachers in the STEM disciplines are especially needed. Teachers may be hired on an emergency permit, so long as they have a B.A. or B.S. degree.



Apr. 11 - David Simmons Guest Speaker

David Simmons, Ventura County Office of Education Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services, spoke to the club about the impending teacher shortage in the county. He was introduced by Kris DeVillers, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Pleasant Valley School District.



Thomas Holtke, principal, and Chase Crosby YWA honoree from Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School

Apr. 18 - Student Shows Compassion for Others

Chase Crosby, a sixth-grade student at Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School, was honored by the Camarillo Optimist Club on Apr. 18 for his academic achievement and service to school and community. The school principal, Thomas Holtke, explained that Chase maintains a perfect straight 'A' record, while serving in a number of functions that include honoring Veteran's at a school ceremony and breakfast, cleaning Ventura Beaches, and singing to the elderly at Emeritus Senior Living for the holidays. Of special note, Chase, an 11-year-old, was cited for showing compassion and assistance to other students needing help with their work. His parents, Dayna and Brent Crosby, along with all four of his grandparents shared the ceremony and pizza lunch.

Apr. 18 - It's A Sellers Market

Chris Nelson, a former Noontime Optimist Club member and busy real estate agent for the past 13 years, shared some of the latest news and recent market analyses with the club members, visitors and friends. Not that anyone living in this community is not already aware of, or proud to report, Ventura County and, specifically, Camarillo are wonderful places to live. The demand for homes is much greater than the supply, driving up prices significantly in the past year or two. Of the 782 homes up for sale since or after October, 607 have sold or are pending sale! Homes have not been on the market long—averaging about two months. Chris says he is in a very competitive business, but

is brewing beer to maybe supplement his real estate income in the near future. Chris can be contacted by phone at 805-844-7607 or on the web at www.ChrisNelsonHomes.com.





Apr. 25 - Junior Optimist Leader Honored

Conner Hughes, a 5th grade student at Rancho Rosal Elementary School, was selected as the Youth We Appreciate award winner by his teacher, Ian McLaren. Conner, and 11 year old, and an avid reader and president of Rancho Rosal's Junior Optimist Club, participates in the After School Robotics League and Battle of the Books competition at the Camarillo Library.

His community and school service projects include Beach Clean Up trips, touring local recycling centers, and creating recycling bins for students' at school. The Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club honored Conner at the Round Table Pizza with his parents, Vanessa and William Hughes, and principal, John Reilly, present. Chantelle Limon presented the award.

Swan Song



When I assumed the position of Newsletter Editor for this club in the spring of 2009, it was with great reluctance because I was quite aware that my poor hearing would severely stress my ability to catch what our speakers were saying and then accurately report this in

**our paper. This has, indeed, been the case from the beginning and I have not gotten any younger in the meantime. In my first issue, I confessed that I claimed no skills nor previous experience in this field and thus would need both help and understanding from you others in the club. I have received both in abundance, for which I am profoundly grateful. I must be more specific and thank Jeanette, Jana and Ron for their coming to my rescue repeatedly, effectively and cheerfully. Having resigned this office a few weeks ago, I hereby pledge my help to whomever comes forth to assume this responsibility. And, it shouldn't have to be Ron; he's got enuff on his plate already
Thanx for your understanding now, R2**

Thank you Roger... Roger Ransom has very generously been the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club everything man—president for one year, newsletter editor at the same time and for the next six years, “Balloon Man” (he has purchased and blown up hundreds of balloons for Christmas for Needy Family events, Walk for Youth festivities, Golf tournaments, and more). He has always helped with setting up events and cleaning up, too—food booths for concerts in the park, installation dinners, Youth Banquets, Red Ribbon Writing Award nights, etc. He has been called on to store and set up the PA system at events when needed and much more. Thank you, thank you!!

A Night at the Forum...



Optimists,

Thank you to all that participated in the April 26th, Candidate Forum Night. It was very successful, interesting, informative, and, it was fun. Special thanks go to Jeanette Bassett, Frank Roth, Janna Visser and Mike Mishler for assisting with the questions. Jeanette did a lot of the prep work and was very helpful last night. Janna did research, passed out the flyers, and assisted last night. Frank did a lot of the organizational work at the site last night and was the timer extraordinaire. Ron Klemann, Luci Pommers, Shirley Seavers, Roger Ransom, Larry Davis Nobuko McClure and Aaron Aronson (and his wife) were available to assist in any way and for moral support. If I missed anyone, I apologize. There was work involved but I think it was worth it. I will get a DVD from the City later and if anyone is interested in seeing it, let me know.

Thank you again.

Ada Lee, Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club President

Coming Attractions:

**May 2 - Shirley and Paul Baskin—“Grants To You” (How to write grants for your club)
(Also Youth We Appreciate recognition)**

May 9 - NO MEETING—MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND

May 13 - Annual Youth Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner

May 16 - Eric Smith—Financial Planning

May 23 - Jeff/Kevin—Grand Canyon University

May 30 - NO MEETING—MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

June 6 - Optimist Scholarship Winners—Howard Hoover

June 13 - TBA

June 20 - NO MEETING—FATHER’S DAY WEEKEND

June 27 - TBA

July NO MEETINGS—OFF THIS MONTH

Filler: “The Gospel According to St. Titleist”

If profanity had any influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is. —Horace G Hutchinson

Golf appeals to the idiot in us and the child Just how childlike golf players become. This is proven by their frequent inability to count past five. —John Updike

I’m hitting the woods just great; but having a terrible time getting out of them! —Buddy Hackett

A Forum of Info, Fun and Friends

