



Optimist Club of Keego Harbor

FEBRUARY 2008

Coming Attractions!

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 – Program to be announced. **WEEK 2 Drawing.**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13 – Program to be announced. **WEEK 3 Drawing.**

TUESDAY, FEB. 19 – BOARD MEETING at Roosevelt School, 8 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20 – **PROGRAM:** RICH FIRESTONE, Postmaster, Keego Harbor. **WEEK 4 Drawing.**

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEB. 22-23 – Abbott Middle School presents "Aida"; Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at West Bloomfield High School. Tickets \$10 available at the door.

SATURDAY, FEB. 23 – Michigan District 2nd Quarter Regional Meeting, 9 a.m., Oakland Schools Professional Development Center, Waterford.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27 – **PROGRAM:** Heidi Slay, "Green Interior Design"; **WEEK 5 Drawing.**

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 – Jacket Club Wild Game Dinner, 6 p.m., Santia Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 – Oratorical Contest. Topic: "Why Me, Why Not?" 7 p.m., Abbott Middle School.

Goofin' around golfin'

The first – of what we hope will become an annual – Goofin Groundhog Golf Classic got off to a small, but hopeful, start on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, at the Keego Harbour Country Club. The conditions were ideal: a lot of snow left over from the 4-5 inches that fell 24 hours earlier.

We didn't worry about Punxsutawny Phil and his predications of an early spring or longer winter. Our own Goofin, the Optimistic Groundhog, predicts ideal weather every day, every time. It's a matter of attitude.

The foursome of BILL BERTAKIS, ED SIMONS, CHUCK COMPTON and DENNIS KEARNS covered the nine holes in just 27 strokes to be the first to have their names engraved on the Goofin Groundhog trophy – donated by Marvin and NANCY PETSCH, in memory of their son, Joel, born on Groundhog Day in 1986 and killed in a tragic auto accident 19 years later.

The two dozen attendees crowded into Gino's for pizza, salad and pasta. Everyone went home with at least two prizes from the varied assortment of gifts rounded up from local merchants.

The presence of fellow Optimists from Southfield-Lathrup and Pontiac added to the community spirit.

Before the event got off to a formal start, there was rumbling going on that this could be the seed for a community winter festival.

That would be great goofin' off time!



The **OPTIMIST CLUB OF KEEGO HARBOR** (Optimist International, Michigan District No. 17, Zone 13, Club 227) serves the youth of Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake. The club meets at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Ember's Deli, 3258 Orchard Lake Road (next door to the West Bloomfield Fire Dept.) Phone: (248) 683-3344. Club's mailing address: PO Box 535, Keego Harbor, MI 48320.

Our web site:
www.keegoharboroptimist.org

MICHIGAN DISTRICT GOVERNOR:
BOB SCHILLER

2007-2008 OFFICERS:
President BILL BERTAKIS
1st Vice President STEVE PALMER
2nd Vice President EDDIE DELBRIDGE
Treasurer DON HORKEY
Secretary PAUL LIPSON

Directors
DAVE KARAGOSIAN
JOHN LINEMEYER*
BARBARA NORDEEN*
NANCY PETSCH
GAYLE STURT*
ED SIMONS (*ex officio*)
(* 2 year terms).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
DON HORKEY

Honor Roll NEW MEMBERS

2007-2008

WARREN BLACK, D.D.S. (*sponsor*, Teri Giannetti)

"BUZZ" BROWN (*reinstated; original sponsor*, Don Horkey)

DR. WILLIAM GISCHIA (*reinstated; original sponsor*, Terry Carlson)

KATHY SPARKMAN (*sponsor*, Jodi Franke)

LET'S CELEBRATE!

ANNIVERSARIES
DURING FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS:

FEB. 28 – TERI GIANNETTI

FEB. 29 – EDDIE DELBRIDGE



MEMBERSHIPS:

4 YEARS – BARBARA NORDEEN (2/26/2004)

2 YEARS – JOHN LINEMEYER (2/1/2006)

(If we missed your date, let Don Horkey know at dhorky@sbcglobal.net or call 743-453-7226.)

Farewell, Keego Hardware

Our Club's President BILL BERTAKIS was the driving force behind the community's farewell salute to the Starick Family and Keego Hardware, which had served the area for more than eight decades. A ceremony was held at the store Jan. 23 featuring Oakland County Commissioner JOHN SCOTT, State Representative Chuck Moss and representatives of Sen. Mike Bishop and Congressman Joe Knollenberg among dignitaries. The Keego Harbor City Council saluted the Staricks at its meeting the following night. CHUCK COMPTON made the last purchase at the store, a grill cover for \$1.00.

Tony celebrates 10 years

March 1 will mark the 10th anniversary for TONY PERKOVIC'S ownership of Embers Deli. Tony and his two brothers owned the deli together 15 years ago. In 1998, Tony bought out his brothers for sole proprietorship. He and his wife, Sonja, natives of Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia) have worked hard to

establish a reputation for "the best corned beef around." They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as carry-out and catering. Of course, Our Club enjoys Tony's hospitality and food every Wednesday morning for our meetings. Call Tony at 248-683-3344. Tony and Sonja are proud parents of Angela, born last October.

★ **DUES ARE DUE** – A reminder from Treasurer DON HORKEY: second quarter dues notices – along with a note to those of you who have not paid for the first quarter – have been mailed. Your response will be appreciated.

★ **ABBOTT PRESENTS "AIDA"** – Abbott Middle School will perform the musical "Aida" on Feb. 22-23. The production will involve about 80 talented students from the school's dance, theater and choir classes. The play will be staged at West Bloomfield High School at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23. Tickets are \$10. To order tickets by phone, call Karen Brody at the high school during the day at (248) 865-6720 or evenings at (248) 681-6215. For information, call (248) 865-3670, ext. 7200.

★ **GOT GOLD?** – DAVE KARAGOSIAN let us know that now's a good time to sell any gold you have laying around as he and his family at Karagosian Jewelers are offering top dollar. By the way, did you see the story on last Friday's front page of the Detroit News? There's a fine photo of Dave hard at work(?). One item missing: no mention that he is a member of the Keego Harbor Optimists.

★ **50-50 FUND-RAISING** – It's happened a number of times that the winner of Our Club's 50-50 has been an individual who attends a meeting after members have been juicing up the pot for a few weeks, and the person wins it all. At the Jan. 23 meeting, Melissa O'Real, a staffer for Congressman Knollenberg, won our \$120 jackpot – after ED SIMONS kidded her: "You're probably going to win." Guess what? BILL BERTAKIS won the jackpot at a recent Southfield-Lathrup club meeting, and ED SIMONS won the jackpot at the Pontiac club's chili cookout. All of the winners donated their winnings back to the club (Thank you, Melissa), which inspired Bill to declare: "That's a good fund-raising idea. Let's all go to other clubs and win their jackpots!"



Wife: "What are you doing?"

Husband: "Nothing."

Wife: "Nothing? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour."

Husband: "I was looking for the expiration date."

Father to son after exam: "Let me see your report card."

Son: "My friend just borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents."

Son: "Mom, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady."

Mom: "Well, you have done the right thing."

Son: "But, mom, I was sitting on daddy's lap."



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

Optimist Club
of Keego Harbor
**Friends of Youth
for 2008**

*Thank you . . . to the following
individuals and businesses
who, through their generosity,
have support Our Club's
Scholarship Fund for the
benefit of the
youth of our community for
2008
(as of 1/27/08).*

Buzz Brown
Complete Insurance
Services
Tony's Embers Deli
NationalCity Bank

Announcing . . .

Optimist Club of Keego Harbor Friends of Youth for 2008

MEMBERS . . . And family and friends of members:

Here is an important way for you, your family and your friends to become an integral player in helping Our Club achieve its mission of "bringing out the best in kids."

This year, contributions to the "Friend of Youth" will be directed to the Scholarship Program. In the last eight years, 43 students have been the recipients of more than \$35,000 in tuition assistance. We feel proud that we are able to give these deserving young men and women a "little push" in the right direction toward a career that eventually will make them contributing citizens to society.

Donations are \$100 (NOTE: a reduction of \$50 from last year). They may be made in the name of the donor or in honor of or in memory of a dear friend.

"Friends of Youth" are recognized in a number of ways . . . At every event we sponsor, by a handsome certificate of appreciation, and by a listing in our monthly newsletter (a copy of which is sent to each "Friend.")

YES, I/We are happy to make a donation of \$100 to be a Keego Harbor Optimist Club "Friend of Youth" for 2008 in support of the Club's Scholarship Program. *(Make check payable to: Optimist International Foundation. Your contribution is tax deductible.)*

- My/Our donation is enclosed.
 I/We pledge our donation. I/We will send it by _____.

NAME OF "FRIEND OF YOUTH" DONOR (as it should appear on the Certificate of Appreciation):

- In honor of: _____ In memory of: _____

Address of Donor:

Phone: _____

Please make a copy of this form for your records. Mail to: Mr. Bill Bertakis, President; PO Box 535; Keego Harbor, MI 48320. For information, contact Mr. Bertakis at 248-343-8816.

Programs

Jamboree a learning experience

Tommy Lee was one of 43,000 scouts from 151 countries who spent two weeks at the Boy Scout World Jamboree last summer in England. So it seemed only natural that when asked what lesson he learned from the experience, he replied: "It made me think more of other people and their lives." At our Jan. 2 meeting, the West Bloomfield High School freshman, whom Our Club helped make his trip possible with financial support, described the very busy schedule of ceremonies, activities and tours he participated in. A moment to remember was the recitation of the Scout motto by the thousands of scouts and leaders in their native language. The next jamboree will be held in Sweden in 2011.

Secret to happy life: embrace aging

Embrace aging: that's the secret to happy lives for elder folks, so said Lynn Alexander at our Jan. 9 meeting. Lynn describes herself as "your aging well advisor." She travels around the state and country putting on seminars and programs to give her advice in a humorous, yet meaningful manner. "Optimism is the most important element," Lynn said (to which, of course we all bowed our heads in agreement.) A positive attitude was at the top of her list of ways to deal with aging. You can learn more about Lynn and aging on her web site: www.youragingwelladvisor.com.

Dr. Faber 'truly proud' of schools

Dr. Gary Faber has been superintendent of West Bloomfield schools since 2002. As he reflected on his administration at our Jan. 16 meeting, he said: "I'm truly proud of what West Bloomfield does for children." Among noteworthy accomplishments he mentioned: high school seniors' ACT scores are sixth highest in the county; West Bloomfield High is the third largest feeder to the University of Michigan; a new program calls for a partnership with Oakland CC and UM-Flint whereby students attend on those campuses and will earn both their high school diploma and an associate's degree. (At the district's monthly board meeting, Dr. Faber announced his retirement effective at the end of the school year.)

Education is enriching

More than 200 kids at Roosevelt Elementary have more to look forward to than the 3 R's. There's the "enrichment" program coordinated by Liz Costello. She described for us at our Jan. 23 meeting the multi-faceted aspects of the program: quizzes, debates, reading, problem solving, and on and on. Fifth-graders competed in an engineers' contest. First-, second- and third-graders practiced speech. There was a spelling bee and a talent show. Education is fun at Roosevelt!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF KEEGO

HARBOR 15-WEEK RAFFLE, 2008

to benefit scholarships, activities and programs for youth of the Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake area.

* * *2008 PRIZE WINNERS* * *

EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS:

JAN. 9: \$25 each to ED SIMONS (twice), DON HORKEY and PAUL LIPSON.

JAN. 23: \$25 each to NANCY PETSCH, GAYLE STURT, STEVE PALMER and ANN CRAWFORD.

OFFICIAL DRAWINGS:

Week 1 – JAN. 30: 1st (\$100) – #376, Vern Aungst (sold by Ray Kobe); 2nd (\$50) – #70, Helene Peters (Dan Peters); 3rd (\$25) – #281, Sue Ellen Vaughan (Don Horkey).

Week 2 – FEB. 6:

Week 3 – FEB. 13:

Week 4 – FEB. 20:

Week 5 – FEB. 27:

Week 6 – MARCH 5:

Week 7 – MARCH 12:

Week 8 – MARCH 19:

Week 9 – MARCH 26:

Week 10 – APRIL 2:

Week 11 – APRIL 9:

Week 12 – APRIL 16:

Week 13 – APRIL 23

Week 14 – APRIL 30:

Week 15 – MAY 7:

Program 'fixes broken kids'

Everyday about 20 students, from K thru fifth grade, and from area districts, come to Roosevelt Elementary to learn how to behave so that they can return to their regular classrooms.

The 5-year-old, county-based program is called STEPS – Structured Therapeutic Environment Promoting Success.

They are described as "broken kids," and it's the task of teacher Dave Lesinski and social worker Karen Isgrigg to "fix them," they told us at our Jan. 30 meeting.

Lesinski's philosophy is that the kids have to learn, not in a punitive way, that their actions have consequences. This is a challenge for kids, some with severe emotional problems, to comprehend. "They don't have the skills to act appropriately, to know how to live and act."

Recently, Lesinski and Isgrigg chaperoned 18 students to enjoy "The Lion King" at Detroit's Opera House. "They were perfect," Lesinski said. "There was not one single incident."

The good news, he added: "We are changing behavior in kids."