



# Optimist Club of Keego Harbor

MARCH-APRIL 2008

## Coming Attractions!

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 – PROGRAM:** Linda Hatfield, Birmingham Bloomfield CU Marketing: “Financial planning through job loss”; **WEEK 8 Drawing**
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 – PROGRAM:** John Sullivan, West Bloomfield Schools Information Services Coordinator: “Computer– personal security when surfing”; **WEEK 9 Drawing**
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 – PROGRAM:** Gold Medal winners of Club Oratorical Contest will recite their talks; **WEEK 10 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 – Program to be announced; WEEK 11 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 – PROGRAM:** Chuck R. Harroun, Attorney at Law: “Wills, Trusts, and Power of Attorney documents with estate planning”; **WEEK 12 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 – Program to be announced; WEEK 13 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 – Program to be announced; WEEK 14 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 – PROGRAM:** Student Appreciation at Abbott Middle School; **WEEK 15 Drawing.**
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 – Program to be announced.**
- FRIDAY, MAY 16 – Michigan Week Breakfast at Bay Pointe Golf Club;** presentation of Our Club’s scholarship winners.
- SATURDAY, MAY 17 – Our Club’s “Clean Up Orchard Lake Road”;** details to be announced.

**Bowling for kids . . .** The kids had fun, and several treasuries had a few dollars added to their accounts. Our Club’s annual Bowling for Kids on March 9 at Sylvan Lanes benefitted Girl Scouts troops 471, 484, 1291 and 1652, and Cub Scouts Pack 224 as well as Our Club’s own treasury. Congrats to PAUL LIPSON, GAYLE STURT and Paul’s wife, Judy, for their invaluable leadership.

**‘Why Me, Why Not?’ . . .** Jennifer Chang and Farzan Sewani were the respective girls’ and boys’ gold medal winners in Our Club’s annual Oratorical Contest March 12 at Abbott School. Michael Davenport was the silver medalist, and Jordan Sheena the bronze in the boys section. Abena Stone (silver) and Chaerin Kim (bronze) were the other winners for the girls. Members will get an chance to hear Jennifer and Farzan recite their pieces at the April 2 meeting. They will advance to the regional competition in Royal Oak on April 19.

## Kid-to-kid mentoring program helps form meaningful relationships

*(The following article appeared in a recent issue of the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth newsletter. Our Club’s mentoring program brings to life the meaning of the Optimist motto, “bringing out the best in kids.” Along the way, it brings out the best in adults and members who participated in the project, too.)*

The power of the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth is forming partnerships with its member sectors for community projects. That’s exactly what the mentorship program does when it involves eighth grade students from Abbott Middle School and third and fourth grade students from Roosevelt Elementary *(Continued on page 4)*



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](http://www.keegoharboroptimist.org)

MICHIGAN DISTRICT GOVERNOR:  
BOB SCHILLER

**2007-2008 OFFICERS:**  
President BILL BERTAKIS  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President STEVE PALMER  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

“BUZZ” BROWN (*reinstated; original sponsor, Don Horkey*)  
DARIN LUTWIN (*sponsor, Jodi Franke*)  
KATHY SPARKMAN (*sponsor, Jodi Franke*)

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## LET'S CELEBRATE!

### ANNIVERSARIES DURING MARCH & APRIL

*BIRTHDAYS:*

**MARCH 3** – KATHY SPARKMAN

**MARCH 6** – BOB PYLES

**MARCH 14** – JOHN SCOTT



*MEMBERSHIPS:*

**19 YEARS** – TERI GIANNETTI (3/1/1989)

**13 YEARS** – PAUL LIPSON (3/30/1995)

**5 YEARS** – SHARON GEE (3/18/2003); DAVE  
KARAGOSIAN (4/30/2003)

**4 YEARS** – GAYLE STURT (4/21/2004)

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

## Billy Lee Stallard, 79; a charter member

Billy Lee Stallard – a charter member of Our Club since its founding in 1973 – died February 13, 2008. He was 79.

Billy was a behind-the-scene kind of guy, but generous to a fault in his support of the Our Club and its activities. His most recent donation – \$100 to the Friend of Youth Scholarship Fund – reached us just a couple of days before his death.

*President BILL BERTAKIS shares some of his memories of Billy, popular owner for a number of years of the J and J Barber Shop on Orchard Lake Road in Keego Harbor. Bill writes:*

“Billy was known and loved around town. Inside his store he would always be waiting for you reading a newspaper and smoking a cigar with his back toward the front door. When you came in, he saw you through a mirror he had and quickly put out the cigar. He would always greet you the same way: “Yes, sir, come right in. How can I help you, sir?” (It would seem a little odd in my early 20’s being called sir).

“I also remember him always having a favorite light yellow button-down shirt that was not tucked in. He had a collection of old (I mean really old) milk glass bottles by the front door and a pretty large baseball collection of balls, pictures, programs, etc. I asked him who was his favorite baseball player and he told me it was Hank Greenberg. Sometimes, I would hope there would be a little more time to look at the baseball collection he had in a glass case.

“He also memorized all the Detroit sports. He could always tell you what place any Michigan team was in and who won last night’s game.

“He told me years ago the barber business was a good business because when he started there was no such thing as a hair salon. He told me when he started the business there were other barbers but they passed before him.”

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Pixley Funeral Home Godhardt-Tomlinson Chapel. Burial was at the Oakland Hills Memorial Garden, Novi.

Condolences . . . To ASHOK GUPTA on the recent loss of his dear father.

★ **DUES ARE DUE** – A reminder from Treasurer DON HORKEY that third quarter reminders will be mailed April 1 (no foolin’). A prompt response will be appreciated from those whose “dues are (over) due.”

★ **RAY WINS** – Former member RAY KOBE was the most recent winner of the 50-50 raffle. The jackpot came to \$45.

★ **WISDOM** – TERI GIANNETTI passes along the following bit of wisdom: *Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute.* (G.B. Stern)

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## Jacket Club honors ‘Skeeter’ Laidlaw

The late and beloved “Skeeter” Laidlaw was honored on the best way at the Jacket Club’s annual Wild Game Dinner March 11 at Santia Hall: contributions were doled out to various organizations in the community.

Our Club was among the recipients, a total of \$350 for our scholarship fund.

“Skeeter”: was the guiding hand of the Jacket Club’s mission of providing for and supporting needy kids and families. Nearly 300 persons witnessed a tribute to him, and then enjoyed a variety of tasty wild game entrees.

ED SIMONS was a big winner, too, of the 50-50.



**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,  
support Our Club's  
Scholarship Fund for the  
benefit of the  
youth of our community  
for 2008  
(as of 3/5/08).*

Billy Lee Stallard  
Complete Insurance  
Services  
NationalCity Bank  
Q Linc of Keego Harbor  
Tony's Embers Deli

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.*

## MENTORING

(continued from page 1)

School. These West Bloomfield schools have partnered with the Keego Harbor Optimist Club and the Coalition to produce a program that gives an elementary student a chance to form a meaningful relationship with a middle school student who has succeeded both academically and socially.

Five Roosevelt students meet with their five Abbott mentors every Thursday after school in Roosevelt's media center. The Roosevelt students have a chance to talk over their week and to discuss problems that they may have encountered. One of the activities that the students enjoy the most is playing a variety of board games. The Abbott students find that this informal activity provides opportunities for conversations. The Roosevelt students love the fact that an "eighth grader really wants to spend time with me." Included in the four-month program are opportunities for academic support, guest speakers, and social events such as bowling, roller skating, and a culminating activity of attending a Detroit Tiger baseball game in May.

Dr. Paul Lipson, retired principal of Roosevelt Elementary School and member of both the Coalition and the Keego Harbor Optimist Club, supervises the program along with Bill Bertakis, president of the Keego Harbor Optimist Club. Nanci Gelsey, counselor at Abbott Middle School, and Mary Matich, social worker at Roosevelt Elementary School, help with communications and program design. Amy Hughes, principal of Abbott Middle School, and Dr. Steven Palmer, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, are key supporters of this program.

Funding and support for the program comes from the Keego Harbor Optimist Club (through a generous grant from DAVE KARAGOSIAN family trust), the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth, West Bloomfield Schools, West Bloomfield Public Library, Henry Ford Maplegrove and West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation.

**TIGERS GAME:** Paul Lipson is extending an invitation to members to accompany the mentoring students and their parents on the outing Thursday, May 22, to Comerica Park to see the Tigers play the Seattle Mariners. The cost is \$12 which includes the bus ride and the ticket. Let Paul know ASAP.

## Programs

### Plan ahead. Be prepared.

That's the advice Dawn Hager passed along at our Feb. 20 meeting. She is the family services counselor at Pixley Funeral Home Godhardt-Tomlinson Chapel in Keego Harbor.

Dawn, and SHARON GEE, manager of Pixley, ticked off numerous tools they have to help people plan for their funeral. Among the ideas and services they mentioned:

A grief-management library, complete with

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

**Week 2 – FEB. 6:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #325, Nancy Horkey (Don Horkey); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #28, Bill Packer (Ed Simons); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #362, Paul Lipson (Paul Lipson).

**Week 3 – FEB. 13:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #332, Don Horkey (Don Horkey); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #68, Helene Peters (Dan Peters); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #134, Pam Hulett (John Linemeyer).

**Week 4 – FEB. 20:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #342, D. Yancey (Ray Kobe); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #301, Tom Faylor (Nancy Petsch); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #55, Ralph Behler (Ralph Behler).

**Week 5 – FEB. 27:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #330, Ann Richards (Don Horkey); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #376, Vern Aungst (Ray Kobe); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #75, Chuck Compton (Chuck Compton).

**Week 6 – MARCH 5:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #52, Carol Hardesty (Ralph Behler); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #132, Pamela Hulett (John Linemeyer); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #239 – Alice Stoddard (Joan Tomlinson)

**Week 7 – MARCH 12:** 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100) – #291, Sharon Butler (Ed Simons); 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50) – #28, Bill Packer (Ed Simons); 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$25) – #97, Rachel Lipson (Paul Lipson).

**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:**

video, CD and brochure.

A one-hour telephone card that can come in handy during moments of intense grief in the midst of planning a funeral.

A 24/7 compassion help line.

A collection of some 70 pre-written letters.

Creation of a family website.

There is a lot more available to help families during this emotional time. Call Dawn at 248-682-0200.

### BEAUTIFUL WORDS

The best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had