



Optimist Club of Keego Harbor

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

Coming Attractions!

- TUESDAY, NOV. 27** – BOARD MEETING at Roosevelt School, 8 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 – PROGRAM: LISA BROWNLEE, Lakes Area Pet and People Care.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 – PROGRAM: Magician ANDREW ZERBO.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12 or 19 – PROGRAM: Musicians from ABBOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL.
TUESDAY, DEC. 18 – Board Meeting at Roosevelt School, 8 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26 – **NO MEETING!** Sleep in!
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2 – Happy New Year! RESOLUTION: to regularly attend the weekly meeting.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9 – Program to be announced. **1st Early Bird Drawing for the 15-Week Raffle**
TUESDAY, JAN. 15 – BOARD MEETING at Roosevelt School, 8 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16 – Program to be announced.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23 – Program to be announced. **2nd Early Bird Drawing for the 15-Week Raffle**
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 – Program to be announced. **WEEK 1 Drawing of the 15-Week Raffle**

Pumpkins are a hit!

This year's pumpkin decorating event Oct. 27 for the kids in the area was a smashing success! "It was our best ever," exclaimed ED SIMONS, echoing the comments of many others.

Nearly 300 persons – youngsters and their parents or accompanying adults – crowded into Roosevelt School's gym to put creative touches to 200 pumpkins.

In a great showing of support and cooperation, some 15 Optimist members showed up to give a helping hand: either or both on the night before to unload pumpkins and on the day itself to set up tables and chairs and all of the materials for the kids to work with – in addition to making a couple of extra trips to bring in more pumpkins. (We owe gratitude to Jeff Beckett, one of our former presidents, for volunteering his time and truck.)

Meet Angela, a future Optimist!

TONY PERKOVIC – our member and owner of Tony's Ember Deli where we meet weekly – and his wife, Sonja, welcomed their first child into the world Oct. 15. She is Angela, who weighed a healthy 8 pounds. Said the proud papa: "She will be an Optimist!"

Bill and Paul at conference

President BILL BERTAKIS and secretary PAUL LIPSON attended the Michigan District quarterly conference Nov. 3 at the St. Regis Hotel in Detroit. It was Bill's first time, and as incoming president, he attended the meeting for new presidents. Paul co-chaired a session for first-timers attending an Optimist conference. "It was exciting," was Bill's assessment.



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
JODI FRANKE
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
NOVEMBER (Belated) & DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS:

NOV. 8 – DAVE KARAGOSIAN

NOV. 27 – NANCY PETSCH

DEC. 28 – AMY HUGHES

DEC. 31 – JODI FRANKE



MEMBERSHIPS:

15 YEARS – ANN CRAWFORD (12/9/1992)

6 YEARS – BOB PYLES (11/8/2001);

ED SIMONS (12/28/2001)

3 YEARS – TONY PERKOVIC (12/4/2004)

2 YEARS – TONY MARASCO (11/21/2006);

DALE STUART (12/6/2006)

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

operation falling victim to the "big box" stores. "We should do something to express our gratitude for all they have done for the community," said Bill. Both Staricks were always generous in their support of Our Club. Stay tuned.

★ **TAKE AND GIVE** – BARB NORDEEN won the \$152 50-50 jackpot recently. WARNING: She didn't want anyone to know how she handled her winnings, so please do not continue if you want to honor her wishes. Barb paid off the balance of her dues and donated the remaining funds to Our Club.

★ **CANISTERS ON DUTY** – Our Club is experimenting with the idea of leaving canisters at the premises of cooperating businesses as a means of raising some dollars for our treasury. JODI FRANKE, manager at NationalCity, and NANCY PETSCH, manager of the Bloomfield Birmingham Credit Union, have accepted the challenge of locating canisters at their locations. Thank you, Jodi and Nancy.

★ **GET WELL, BILLY** – Charter member, and one who probably cut the hair of everyone in Keego in his shop for many years, BILLY STALLARD, is recuperating from heart bypass surgery recently. We wish you the best, Billy – who didn't forget to send in his dues, and always supports our activities and projects.

★ **SAY "CHEESE!"** – President BILL BERTAKIS had a busy night at the Pistons' recent home-opener. He was commissioned by the Pistons to be the official photographer (as well as for 3 or 4 other special events in the coming year). It was an experience, he said, snapping the fans in all 198 suites, and getting copies of the photos to the people before the final buzzer.

★ **HE'S THE BEST** – JODI FRANKE's husband, Christopher, was recently named "Teacher of the Year." He teaches speech pathology at Dublin Elementary.

★ **JUST THE BIG BILLS** – Last week, Jodi could have used someone to speak out at the NationalCity branch she manages in Keego. A woman handed a note to a teller, demanding "just big bills" and implying that she had a weapon. No one was injured, the crook got away, and as of a week later, was still on the loose. Can anyone shout: "Stop, thief!"

★ **HE'S SUBBING** – Secretary PAUL LIPSON will be a substitute principal for the next month or so. Retired after many years as principal at Roosevelt Elementary in Keego, he was asked to handle similar duties temporarily at Ealy Elementary through the end of this year. Ealy's principal and spouse became the parents of twins recently, necessitating the move to call Paul out of retirement.

★ **THANKS, JIM** – JIM SONKISS has notified us that he is resigning his membership. A dentist, Jim is splitting time between his office locally and a couple days a week up North. He was Our Club's president in 1981-82

★ **HAPPY "DUE" YEAR** – A new Optimist year means first quarter dues are due. Now's the time to attend to this matter – before Treasurer DON HORKEY mails the second quarter notices at the beginning of 2008.

★ **AN HISTORIC TABLE** – President BILL BERTAKIS and member BUZZ BROWN participated in the donation of an historic card table by Bob Starick, Jr., of Keego Harbor Hardware to the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, which Buzz presides over. The top of the table lists local businesses in the area from the 1950s.

★ **SAD, SAD NEWS** – President Bill revealed at our Nov. 14 meeting that the landmark Keego Hardware, which Bob Starick, Sr., and Jr. have owned and operated for decades, will be closing by the end of this year. It's the story, so familiar these days, of a mom-and-pop



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Friend of Youth

Optimist Club of Keego Harbor Friends of Youth for 2007

Thank you . . . to the following individuals and businesses who have made a commitment as a Friend of Youth through their sponsorship of the programs and activities of Our Club for the benefit of the youth of our community for 2007.

Bagley & Langan, PLLC*
Billy J. Stallard*
Coach's Olympia Grill *
Complete Insurance Services*
Ember's Deli*
Keego Energy*
NationalCity Bank*
Roosevelt School PCG*
Jim Sonkiss, D.D.S.
Otto A. Trzos Co., Inc.
Visions of Sylvan Lake*

* Renewed sponsorship for 2007

REALIZING OUR MISSION *** Donated \$100 and several volunteer hours for the **Roosevelt School Fun Run** . . . Sponsored annual "**Pumpkin Decorating**" event for area elementary school kids . . . Donated \$200 to the West Bloomfield Youth Coalition as a co-sponsor of a **mentoring program** that is involving students from both Abbott Middle School and Roosevelt elementary school . . . Contributed \$250 for the **Abbott School production** of "Once Upon a Mattress" . . . Hosted an afternoon of **bowling for nearly 60 kids** from Roosevelt School, helping the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Student Council raise \$466 for their treasuries . . . Donated \$200 to the **Keego Harbor Memorial Day Parade** and pledged our participation in this annual event that is viewed by thousands . . . Fulfilled our annual commitment of **\$1,000 to Cub Scout Pack 224**, of which Our Club is the official sponsor . . . Awarded **\$4,500 in scholarships** to six high school graduates heading to college . . . **Chaperoning the "Kids Zone"** during the Big Fish Festival in Keego Harbor . . . Co-beneficiary of and participant in 2nd annual **Gino's "Teeing FORE! Kids"** golf outing . . . Provided shirts at a cost of \$600 for nearly 100 kids in the annual **Roosevelt School Summer Academic Camp** . . . Once again, a **major \$500 sponsor** for the annual Keego Harbor Police Department's "Skate Night" that provides an afternoon of fun for hundreds of kids.



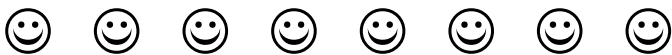
Michigan Masons offer child ID kits

Michigan Masons provide one of the most complete child recovery and identification programs in the nation. Dubbed Michigan CHIP (**CH**ild **I**dentification **P**rogram), the free service provides a number of identifying items which are given to the child's family. Doug Garceau, a self-employed custom carpenter in Zeego and a member of the Masons, related the program to us at our Nov. 7 meeting. The ID traits that CHIP covers include dental impressions, DNA (saliva), color photo, fingerprints and a brief videotaped interview that can be quickly distributed to the media to reach a large audience. The CHIP program is usually held in schools, shopping malls, county fairs, etc. For more information, call 1-800-632-8764.

Lt.-Gov. REGINALD ROBINSON was a guest at our Nov. 7 meeting. A member of the Pontiac club for the past five years, he is a former teacher in the Pontiac school district. He said he finds the work of a teacher and the mission of the Optimists to be very similar. Both are involved in "bringing out the best in kids."

501 (c)(3) Update: 10 to go

Members of the Optimist International staff and the OI attorney had a conference call recently with the IRS. The IRS is asking for additional information from 10 Clubs. International (as of early October) had not received the names of the Clubs. When OI receives the names and the questions, staff will immediately inform the Clubs, the Lieutenant Governors in their Zone, and the local District Governors. The organization will have 30 days to respond to the IRS, but hopes to have the information sooner. **NOTE: Our Club is NOT among the 10 from whom the IRS is requesting additional information. We filed our report a long, long time ago.**



THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director how he determines whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

MICHIGAN FACTS

Q. Where does Michigan rank internationally in the production of dogsleds?

A. First.

Q. What is the nation's largest indoor/outdoor museum complex?

A. Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

Q. Compared to Chicago, "The Windy City," how does Detroit rank in average wind velocity?

A. The same (10.4 mph). (Note: Chicago earned the nickname "The Windy City" because of its politicians in the 1920s, who their opponents in Washington claimed were big 'bags of wind', and not because of the wind off the lake as most people think.)

Q. Arnold F. Wilt, born in Detroit in 1886, revolutionized the cosmetology industry by developing what process?

A. The cold permanent wave.

Q. The Michigan state capitol is constructed of what material?

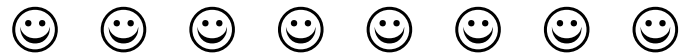
A. Ohio sandstone.

Q. What is Michigan's largest fresh-market vegetable crop?

A. Onions.

Q. Opened in 1904, what is the oldest freshwater aquarium in the nation?

A. Belle Isle Aquarium



A young grandson called the other day to wish his grandmother Happy Birthday. He asked her how old she was. "62,," she replied. The youngster was quiet for a moment, and then asked, "Did you start at 1?"

When my grandson asked his grandmother how old she was, she teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool even though she was worried what the child may have been told. "That's interesting," she said, "How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'l' and add 'e-s.'"

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs."

CLOSING THOUGHT: "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." – Oscar Wilde