



Optimist Club of Keego Harbor

JUNE-JULY 2008

Coming Attractions!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 – Program to be announced
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 – Program to be announced
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 – Program to be announced.
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6 – Program to be announced.
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13 – Program to be announced
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20 – PROGRAM: Breakfast at Tate Optimist Park.
SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUG. 23-24 – BIG FISH FESTIVAL.
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27 — PROGRAM: Kasia Mazur, 2003 Scholarship
Awardee.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 4 – GOLF OUTING at Pontiac Country Club.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 11 – Regular weekly meeting on our new day,
Thursdays.

NOTICE . . . **Beginning in September, Our Club's weekly meetings will be held on THURSDAYS instead of Wednesdays. The starting time will remain 7:30 a.m. at Tony's Embers Deli. Since Gino's golf outing for the benefit of Our Club will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, we will NOT hold our regular weekly meeting. That means that our first regular Thursday meeting will be on Sept. 11. Hope to see everyone there!**

Golf outing Sept. 4 to benefit Our Club's youth activities

Our Club will be the sole beneficiary of Gino's annual golf outing on Thursday, Sept. 4, at Pontiac Country Club. This is an opportunity for us to give a boost to our treasury in support of our many youth activities during the year.

The basic details of the outing:

Registration at 8 a.m.; teeing off at 9 a.m.; delicious dinner back at Gino's Santia Hall.

The cost is \$100 per golfer. Foursomes are encouraged.

Hole sponsorships will be available for \$50 each.

Optimist members, each and everyone of us, should consider it an obligation to participate:

1. As a golfer,
 2. As a volunteer (registration desk, judging closest-to-the-pin holes, setting up course, etc.)
 3. Seeking golfers
 4. Seeking hole sponsors (\$50 a hole: talk to family, friends, or businesses).
- Contact President BILL BERTAKIS about how/when/where you can help out.



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
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*)

JEREMY FORCIER (*sponsor, Bill Bertakis*)

SID RUBIN (*sponsor, Bill Bertakis*)

to his family, Ryan finds himself held captive. As months go by with no trace of Ryan, the Burns family falls apart. Ben rebels against everything while Ryan reluctantly learns the mountain way of life.

The book is available for \$8.00 (including shipping). Contact Steve Palmer at 175 Liza Lane, Commerce Township, MI 48382; (248) 363-1506; palmer-stephen@sbcglobal.net

Our Club's scholarship awardees honored at 'Michigan Week'

Lyndsey Vestuto and **Justin Beaumont**, West Bloomfield High School graduates and Our Club's scholarship awardees for 2008, were honored at the annual "Michigan Week" breakfast May 16 at Shenandoah Country Club.

Justin Beaumont's teachers use the words "creative and capable" as well as "resourceful, willing and respectful" when they speak of Justin. His dream to become a veterinarian has motivated him to overcome a number of obstacles and his determination and compassion will get him to his goal. He plans on attending Oakland Community College

Music drives Lyndsey Vestuto's world and she wants to share that joy with others. Through her desire to become a music teacher, she hopes to motivate and empower her students; encouraging them to reach their potential, intellectually and emotionally. Lyndsey plans on attending Oakland Community College and/or University of Michigan-Flint for a number of years (evenings and spring/summer terms).

Marilyn honored, too

MARILYN TREUTER, a member since 1996, was given special recognition at the "Michigan Week" breakfast for her years of volunteerism at Roosevelt School, her church and other community organizations. Congratulations, Marilyn!

GET WELL, ANN – It's been a couple of months since ANN CRAWFORD fell in her home and seriously injured herself; we hope that she is on the comeback trail and will be with us soon

ON THE MARCH – Our Club participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Keego Harbor and Sylvan lake; it was described as the best parade in years

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED – Nearly two dozen students from area high school and elementary schools were honored at the annual Student Recognition Day

PROGRAMS – Esther Callahan, past woman commodore of the Pontiac Yacht Club, gave us a brief history. The club celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2009. She invited all of us, young and old, to consider memberships . . . At our June 18 meeting, DARIN LUTWIN, manager of NationalCity bank's Keego office, told us about the bank's "Community Appreciation Day" when the bank closes its lobby for a half a day to allow staff to volunteer in area organizations.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

ANNIVERSARIES

DURING JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS:

JULY 16 – STEVE PALMER

JULY 19 – CHUCK COMPTON

JULY 24 – BARB NORDEEN

AUGUST 9 – ED SIMONS

AUGUST 13 – MARILYN TREUTER

AUGUST 16 – DALE STUART

AUGUST 29 – RALPH BEHLER



MEMBERSHIPS:

12 YEARS – MARILYN TREUTER (7/10/1996)

3 YEARS – STEVE PALMER (6/30/2005); ASHOK GUPTA (8/19/2005)

2 YEARS – BILL BERTAKIS (7/9/2006); NANCY PETSCH (7/9/2006)

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

'Eagle Rock': a story of loss, fear and survival

President-elect STEVE PALMER has announced the publication of "Eagle Rock," written by his wife, Raenette. An adventure story geared toward kids 8-12 years old (but adults may enjoy the tale, too), the action takes place over 117 days. The Burns family takes a leisurely vacation in the Appalachian Mountains looking for eagles' nests. Identical twins, Ryan and Ben, enjoy their freedom until Ryan wanders after an eagle, falls down a ravine and is hopelessly lost. A mountain man finds Ryan half-dead and takes him to his wife where she nurses Ryan back to health. Instead of helping him return



Optimist Club
of Keego Harbor
Friends of Youth
for 2008

Thank you . . . to the following individuals and businesses who, through their generosity, have helped make possible the programs and activities of Our Club for the benefit of the youth of our community for 2008 (as of 7/16/08).

- Ralph & Virginia Behler
in memory of Billy Stallard
- Buzz Brown:
- Q Linc of Keego Harbor
- Complete Insurance Services
- Paul Lipson
- NationalCity Bank
- Roosevelt School PCG
- Billy Lee Stallard
- Gayle Sturt
- The Jacket Club
- Joan Tomlinson
- 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, 45 students have been the recipients of more than \$36,000 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.

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.

President BILL BERTAKIS has been spearheading troop-packing parties in the area. The article below, reprinted from the West Bloomfield Eccentric, describes the great success of his latest adventure on May 31. Within a couple of weeks, he received the following thank-you note from troops in Iraq:

Mr. Bertakis,

Thank you for the support. Dan is out of the office right now, but will be returning soon. He sends his regards and also says thank you for everything that you and your group has done. Today we received some 'Support the Troops' packages from your group, including the Mayor (Sid Rubin) in Keego Harbor and Congressman (Joe Knollenberg). The box helps uplift our spirits and reminds us that more than our families care for the safe return of all deployed soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines.

The guitar that you've sent me is doing great. Unfortunately I have a busy schedule and find maybe an hour or so within a week time span to practice. It is getting easier to fret and not have to look at the chords. A lot of fun to be had.

Thank you again for all of your support and God Bless.

Seth M. Harrison

Keego volunteers give gift boxes to soldiers

By Larry Ruehlen • ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER • June 5, 2008

Volunteers at the first Keego Harbor troop-packing party sent 139 boxes to the armed forces Saturday.

"It was the perfect crowd for the amount of goods we had," said Bill Bertakis, president of the Keego Harbor Optimist club. "We wanted a pretty good turnout but we didn't want so many people that everyone wouldn't have enough to do."

Bertakis got the idea after taking photos at a similar event in nearby Waterford Township.

Louise Downs, who runs the Web site: www.thedesertangel.org, organized the first troop-packing party in October 2001. She's been holding them since and organized the party in Waterford that Bertakis attended.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg asked him to photograph that party and Bertakis clicked away as students packed care packages for shipment to the Middle East. Bertakis came away impressed that so many people wanted to work together for a great cause and started planning a local event for Keego Harbor.

The Optimists have a long-standing relationship with Roosevelt school and Principal Stephen Palmer likes to get students involved in the community.

"It was the first event where students learned about the role our troops play in the U.S.," said Palmer. "They realized why our troops are somewhere else. The 4th and 5th graders probably understand more than the 2nd graders, but they all got something positive out of it."

Downs said the Keego party went well.

"Anytime you can send one or 1,000 boxes it is a good turnout," she said. "This is my ministry. If you find your calling in life, you are a happy camper."

Bertakis, a professional photographer, took a photo of all the volunteers so the soldiers could see who packed each box. The volunteers also included a hand-written note. Palmer and his wife sent a box to their nephew stationed in Iraq. Most volunteers merely had a soldier's name but they still took the time to send a note.

The local postmaster attended too, making sure all the boxes were packed and addressed properly. Every soldier will soon get a box packed with useful items like toiletries, beef jerky, socks and post cards. A few will get special gifts like NFL footballs provided by the Detroit Lions or Beanie Babies soldiers can pass out to local children.

All told, the volunteers packed and shipped more than 1,000 pounds of goods to 101 soldiers Saturday.

Knollenberg returned the favor too, showing up to pack boxes and chat up the volunteers.

"It was a nice thing for a congressman to do," said Bertakis. "Everyone was glad to see him."

Bertakis took cash donations to help pay for shipping and was pleasantly surprised when he opened the lockbox.

"There were many \$100 bills in there," he said. "They must have come from the veterans. I couldn't believe the generosity."

Anyone who wants to contribute may contact Downs at: www.thedesertangel.org.