



From the Editor:

We are in challenging times, ladies. Every day may not be good, but there is good in every day! Make today amazing! And always stay Optimistic!

From Co-Prez Linda...

When I was installed as president of our club in September of 2019, I used the metaphor of having 2020 (clear) vision for the upcoming year. In hindsight, our vision of 2020 was not clear and we became blindsided by events. And at the end, what we saw was a year we wanted to get rid of as soon as possible.

However, when I look back at 2020, I see some wonderful things.

Flexibility Determination Caring for others

With our **determination** to keep the club going forward, we learned how to use Zoom and to connect without being in the same room. Because of Zoom meetings, we also had the opportunity to see members who had difficulty getting to our in-person meetings. We became techies (to some extent).

When we couldn't do our usual projects, we looked around and helped other organizations, especially with masks, pillowcases, and food. 2020 was the year of the greatest generosity for Happy Bucks. We continually showed how much we cared about others.

I don't know what 2021 will bring for us, but with **flexibility, determination and caring** we will forge ahead to provide hope and positive vision and to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

As a former Nittany Lion, I want to borrow their tag line. Instead of We Are Penn State (with a pause between "Are" and "Penn"), I offer you a different rally cry...

We Are...Optimists!



Nancy Wright 1/4
Roxie Strong 1/5
Hatty McGuire 1/10

Jeanette Thompson 1/13
Joyce Laman 1/25

Super Citizen Prevails at Mission Viejo Judy Barrow

Even with all the Covid 19 upheaval in our schools, Mission Viejo will proceed with Super Citizen, at least for the first half of the year. Diane Zitek delivered the shirts, and Judy Barrow took the Scholastic books for 40 Super Citizens on Jan 12 to Mission Viejo Elementary. It is a Cherry Creek School in Aurora. Teachers will select students and personally present the shirts & books.

We are very happy that they continued this program in spite of uncertainties.

Cindy Eley is the Big "70" From Cindy

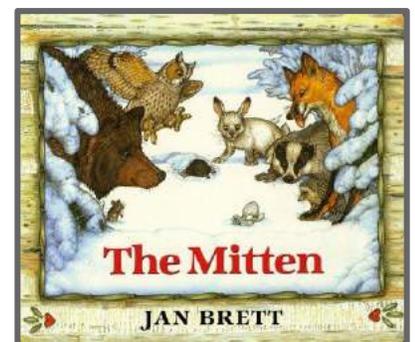
Many thanks to so many TOC members who absolutely buried me in Birthday cards for my 70th birthday in December! I guess my family went through my emails to get people's email addresses, then sent out requests for them to send cards to my sister's house. (If you didn't get a request, don't feel bad, and remember - it was a surprise, so I had no say in it!)

On the weekend before my birthday, we had a fun, distanced, family dinner of take-out Chinese food with my hubby, our two Denver-area grown kids and my sister, and watched "Muppet Christmas Carol". By pandemic standards, it was a rollicking good time! **I got about 105 birthday cards**, and it was such fun to open and read them - and to re-read them later. Some were very funny and some were very heartfelt, and I appreciate them all. Love to you all, and Happy New Year!

Thanks for the Memories! Joy Criminger

Throughout my 25+ years as a TO member, I have always enjoyed the variety of our programs and want to **sincerely thank those who, past and present**, work to find meaningful presentations - without knowing their impact.

In 1984 I adopted my then 6-year-old daughter from Guatemala. I met her at an orphanage in Guatemala City, stayed a few days to do paperwork and satisfy the regulations of the embassy and we then flew home. **The only thing she brought with her was a book with the cover and several pages missing - "The Mitten",** reviewed by **Mary Gelb** at a recent meeting. During those first few months, we read and re-read it MANY times, but now have it tucked away as a treasure.



Thanks for bringing back the memory - needless to say, it's one of our family favorites.

December/January Programs

December 17



Book sharing by members.

January 7



Wild Animal Sanctuary
Ken Drotar

January 14



Destination Imagine Colorado
Kate Donalon, Exec Dir

Hatty McGuire Celebrates "95" January 10 Shermalee Eikermann

Birthday celebration started with the bridge group playing at Shermalee's on January 5. She was in rare form and won high in bridge! Shermalee had a cookbook in her collection from the 30's, and cooked recipes from them for lunch. They certainly sent them on a trip down memory lane! The pineapple upside-down cake was dessert. She was decked out in a tiara and sash. It was a very fun afternoon.

Then on **Saturday, Jan 9**, the day before her actual birthday, friends arranged a **surprise 'drive-by' party** in front of her garage. Many of her friends and Tamarac sisters dropped by that morning.

She was a very surprised birthday 'girl'! Happy Birthday Hatty, and happiness and good health wishes for this year!



Tamarac OC to Host a Books and Buddies Event Wilene Lampert

Save the date all of you Tamarac Optimist Readers. On Saturday **May 1**, we are going to host a **Books and Buddies event** – an opportunity to swap and share books, jigsaw puzzles, and board games with other TOC members.



As an **expanded version of the book exchange** we have periodically done at club meetings, May Day will be a time to browse through gathered **books and puzzles**, and select some for your personal enjoyment. **And we will serve refreshments, all in an appropriately socially-distanced manner.**

Prior to May 1, we will collect books, puzzles, games that you would like to donate and share with others. We expect to have a huge collection of items for your reading and gaming pleasure.

Details about this club event will be provided in the coming weeks. **For now, highlight May 1 in your calendar for the TOC Books and Buddies Day.**

OI Foundation NewsClaire Young, TOC Foundation Rep

It is the 50th anniversary year of the Foundation created to help support Optimist International. You have probably seen the beautiful anniversary pin created with the artwork of **Jeff Hanson** in the vibrant colors he was known for.



Jeff Hanson passed away on Dec. 20, 2020 at age 27. He was born with a genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis making him visually impaired at age 12. He discovered a passion for brightly colored art and began donating works to charity auctions. By age 20, his art had generated \$1 million for charity. By the time of his death, over 200 charities had received \$6.5 M from his generosity.

Speaking of **charity auctions, - - the OI Foundation has one coming.** Watch for more information next month. The dates are **Feb. 11 to March 11.** In the meantime, send me your check or credit card info to get one of the Jeff Hanson designed pins.

Checks are payable to the OI Foundation. My address: 3621 S. Peach Way, Denver 80237

Thanks to those who have contributed already. And to those who will !!!!

Get to know your members... (In their words)



Linda Williams I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. I attended school and college, obtaining a BS in English Education from Penn State, and an MA in English from The University of Texas at Austin.

Other places I have lived include Santiago, Chile, and Amarillo, TX. I have lived in Denver for 43 years and consider it my home.

My first job was teaching English in an international school in Santiago, Chile. I taught 7-12 grade with each class being a different grade and half of the classes being English as a second language (which I didn't know how to teach). I was also in charge of the school newspaper and yearbook. There were few resources the first year, but for the second year I had the privilege of designing the curriculum and of choosing and ordering the traditional classroom materials for all the English classes. [What an amazing opportunity for someone so new to the profession!]

Before getting married and moving to Denver, I spent seven years **teaching junior high English** in Amarillo, TX. That is where I learned to appreciate the color combination of blue and brown. [For those of you who have never been to the panhandle of Texas, all I could see to the horizon was blue sky and brown land.]

After coming to Denver, I taught at two schools similar to Sylvan Learning Centers and taught students from 2nd grade to college. Then I was an Administrator at Barnes Business College hiring adjunct faculty. After that, I joined the training staff of a financial organization where I had to opportunity to teach management and communication skills along with IRS law as it applied to IRAs and qualified plans. At the end of my career, I applied those same skills as well as HR and organization development tasks at another financial organization.

At the moment, playing **American mah jongg** is my only hobby.

Other Organizations/Volunteer: I volunteer at the English Language Center as an assistant for teaching English as a second language. Before COVID, I volunteered at Boomers Leading Change, Meals on Wheels, and Jewish Family Service food bank.

I joined Tamarac at the end of December 2016. Nancy Kennedy invited me to a couple of meetings, and I enjoyed meeting such a wonderful group of women.

Get to know your members... (In their words)



Nubia Madrid I grew up in the Denver Metro Area. Attended school and college at West High School, University of Miami – BS Mechanical Engineering, MS Industrial Engineering (Manufacturing). Other places I have lived include Miami and S. Florida.

Three significant events that influenced my life. **Childhood** – visiting both set of grandparents in Mexico, both had farms – learning how to milk cows, herd cows to pasture and back home, peeling fruit for canning, going into the chicken coop to retrieve eggs, feeding the animals, riding horses, mules and donkeys, grinding corn to make corn meal, washing clothes by hand and waiting for it to dry on the clothes line (so much longer than hanging clothes from the washing machine to dry :D)

9/11/2001 – I was on campus working my work study job when it was announced on the news, watched while the 2nd airplane hit the second building. Many students on campus were originally from NYC or had family in NYC.

5/14/2004 – Becoming the 1st in my family to graduate from college and receive a bachelor's degree. Having my immediate family fly out and join me for my graduation ceremony and to see where I had spent the last four years living. Taking my mother to the beach for the first time. Having my nephew question whether the seashells I gave him were real?!? Haha.

Jobs I've held include Recreation Center – Activities Coordinator; Denver Health – Interpreter; Daniels Fund – Summer Scholar Coordinator; SEAKR Engineering – Manufacturing Intern; Locust USA – Research & Development Engineer; GE – New Product Introduction Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Lean Manufacturing Leader; currently at Edward Jones – Financial Advisor

Hobbies: I want to learn how to **embroider** and make personalized pillowcases and doilies with roses on them just like my grandmother used to make for the family. **Golf** - I grew up in the Girls in Golf program and learned to golf at a young age by female professional golfers, starting back up again to play. **Puzzles** – have always loved putting puzzles together, now a days I am back to the 24-piece puzzle set and passing on the joy of puzzles to my daughters. **Drawing** – I have always enjoyed drawing/sketching, do it off and on. **Cooking** – I enjoy cooking and learning family recipes so that I can continue the tradition and eventually pass onto my daughters. From my mother I have learned how to make Tamales, refried beans, Spanish rice, Enchiladas, Empanadas, Buñuelos, etc. From my husband's family I have learned to make biscuits and gravy, ham hock and beans, orange rolls, chicken dumpling soup, peach cobbler and soon hopefully pie.

Other Organizations/Volunteer: Aurora Rotary Club, Prospanica, Colorado Youth for a Change, DanielsFund.

I joined Tamarac Optimist Club in September last year (2020). I have always enjoyed giving back, it had been a while since I had volunteered in my community and thought this would be a wonderful way to give back, get to know my community and surround myself by other women. I feel that there is always plenty to learn from others and their experiences. I have felt this this much more now that I am new mother. Optimism, goodwill and joy keep you young and bring hope to all of those around it.

Bits and Pieces...

Well, this really isn't thrilling news—except to me, but I have been collecting items in preparation for adopting a cat! Can't wait to have a roommate!! **Sandi Chamberlin**

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I get to finally announce that this Mimi and Grandy's hearts will be growing 100 sizes for a new grandbaby due in August! And I have a new stretching regimen to my zoom classes for my New Year's resolutions- but, darn, actually haven't started yet! Darn me!!!! Here's a pic of my granddog Moose's first Christmas! **Carolyn Bamford**



Chaos

(Joyce Laman presented this opening at the meeting 1/14/21)

In the midst of chaos, there is also **opportunity**.

Sun Tzu

All **great changes** are preceded by chaos.

Deepak Chopra

In all chaos there is a **cosmos**, in all disorder a secret order.

Carl Jung

Chaos was the **law of nature**; Order was the dream of man.

Henry Adams

Normal is an **illusion**. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly.

Charles Addams

Chaos in the world brings uneasiness, but is also allows **the opportunity for creativity and growth**.

Tom Barrett

Chaos does not mean total disorder. Chaos means a **multiplicity of possibilities**.

Chaos is from the ancient Greek words that means a thing is birthed from the void. **And it was about that which is possible not about disorder**.

Jok Church

In the midst of movement and chaos, **keep stillness inside of you**.

Deepak Chopra