



From the editor: Next Optimist Day - February 2, 2023

Members of Optimist International will celebrate Optimist Day throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. More information coming.....

Co-President's Corner - Bonnie & Claire

Welcome to a new year with Tamarac Optimists. Do you know with 81 members we support 25 different service projects, have 7 different fundraising plans, have 8 different positions related to meeting coordination and 8 for membership support? In addition, we have 12 people serving on our governing board. This is why Tamarac is so well respected in Optimist circles and within the SE metro Denver community! Members, you are ambitious, organized, dedicated, fun ...and just darn right amazing.

Our new year will be a busy one, full of fun and friend building activities while serving kids. My hope is that you will find a new activity or volunteer to help on something you haven't done before. Make your new year one of growth for you and our club. Invite a friend or acquaintance to an activity. Don't keep this amazing group of women a secret, we know people want to get involved, have fulfillment in their lives and they just need your help.

I'd like to recognize your Board of Directors and thank them for the time they spend "looking at the big picture" as well as the minutia. They are making decisions on your behalf and you need to feel free in communicating with them about the direction of our club.

Co-Presidents Claire Merrill and Bonnie West

Secretary- Joy Criminger Treasurer-Nancy DeNiro

**Directors - Judy Barrow, Loretta Blessinger Shermalee Eikermann Mary Gelb
Nancy Kennedy Nancy O'Brien Pearl Meulemans Sue Morgan**

Members will be receiving the January 2023 rosters, so please let Nancy D know if any of your information in NOT correct!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Roxie Strong	Jan 5
Hatty McGuire	Jan 10
Jeanette Thompson	Jan 13
Sue Morgan	Jan 24
Kim Smith	Jan 24
Joyce Laman	Jan 25

December Programs

December 8

No meeting in lieu of annual Holiday Party. Pictures were in the December newsletter!



December 15

**Barb Althouse
Celebrating Holiday Music**



December 29

The last meeting in 2022 was brunch at Morning Story restaurant.

Linda Williams led the group in a Communication Exercise that was a lot of fun! Pictures below of some who attended!



Swap and Switch Party this month.... Joy Criminger

Have something in your closet you really don't want or need? Well, SWAP IT for something more appealing! A new fundraiser "Swap and Switch" will be a fun event at our evening meeting on Thursday, January 26 at 4:30pm. New time for evening meeting just this month! Read all the details below. Contact **Suzie Malik** or **Joy Criminger** if you have questions.

SWAP AND SWITCH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023
4:30 PM



Bring nice, gently-used item(s) to swap for something you can't live without

Check in - **donate \$5** for each item brought and exchange it for a poker chip

Display your item(s) in the designated area

Go swapping and switching - pick up item(s) you want/need and take them to
check out

Check out – swap poker chip for each item you're leaving with

NEED TO KNOW:

- ★ If you bring more items than you swap for – thanks for the donation, but no refunds
- ★ If you take more items than you have chips for – pay \$5 for each at checkout
- ★ Take home what doesn't get swapped or it goes to ARC

Super Citizen at Mission Viejo ES Diane Zitek

Super Citizen brings back ole time gatherings

Kindness, respect, and hard work were front and center as students from Mission Viejo Elementary School participated in the annual Super Citizen Award Ceremony on Dec. 19 & 20. The event felt like old times as students and many of their parents gathered together in the gym to celebrate. Super Citizen has become a standard event for Principal Andre Pearson. In the past few years Super Citizen has been combined with the school's "Rock Star" program which speaks more to academic accomplishments.

On hand to help Super Citizen Co-chairs **Diane Zitek and Judy Barrow with shirts, and books were Joy Criminger and Claire Merrill** took pictures. A big "thank you" to both ladies.



Final Bucket Book Distribution at Village East ES

Bucket Book distribution on December 14 at Village East Elementary in Aurora is the final one for this school year. There were 5 kindergarten classrooms.

Pictured L-R: **Kathy Jenkins, Loretta Blessinger (in front), Bonnie West, Linda Williams, Jeanette Thompson, Kathy Sullivan, and Sandy Middleton.**



Bucket Book Thank You!! Joy Criminger

A HUGE thank you for your interest, dedication, time and effort for the Bucket Book project this 1st semester of the school year. It was a tremendous success! Here are the (approximate) stats to be proud of: **15 school coordinators and 60 volunteers (many repeats) donated 165 hours to read and give books to 690 1st graders in 9 schools!**

CONGRATULATIONS and Thank You again!

Watch for upcoming information from **Carolyn Bamford** regarding the 2nd semester phase of this program when we will visit Kindergarten classrooms to read and distribute **“The Invisible String”**

GOG (Girls On the GO) Kathy Sullivan

WINTER WONDERLAND GOG

It is time for another **GOG for January and it is Movie month**. I am looking at Monday **January 16** which is a holiday. The movie that might be of interest is **FableMan**. It is playing at Chez Artiste and hope it will still be there. Watch the Tidbits for information.

This GOG reporter failed to report on our trip up to **Cheyenne for the Christmas House**. Seven ladies from the club were joined by members from two other Clubs. There were lots of beautiful things, and it was fun to see our friends from the **Cheyenne Club**.

We had a wonderful breakfast at **Cracker Barrel**, and went shopping at **Just Dandy's** afterward.

The the weather was not great on the trip up and back. We had blowing snow and tumbleweeds. It got so bad that on the return trip they closed I-25. Some of the group came back VIA Highway 85, but we made it.

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The **Summer Weekend** trip is in the works. The Summer is already filling up fast. The committee is looking at the **weekend of July 21-23**. I know that everyone was looking forward to tanking but we are looking to stay closer to home. Watch for details.

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Big Announcement

CASA BONITA is opening in May of 2023.

This is must GOG for the summer.

Holiday Gift Project Follow up Barb Althouse

Thank you Tamarac Ladies for supporting the Holm Holiday Gift project! I'm certain that we brought a lot of happiness to the **5 families (20 children)**. T

The social worker and office staff were very appreciative to our club. The picture is of several 4th grade students (**yes, they are wearing their pajamas for Pajama Day**) who helped carry in **approximately 60 gifts plus 5 King Soopers family gift cards**. Thanks for your generosity!



Shermalee and Barbara, co chairs

Tamarac's Bridge Group Shermalee Eikermann

Shermalee hosted the Christmas gathering of the Tamarac Bridge Group, and she says it was delightful. We are not serious players, and just have a good time. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you are interested in being part of this group, please let one of these ladies know!

L-R - Beda Collins, Jeanette Thompson, Verlee Greene, Shermalee Eikermann, Mary Schieferecke, Sandy Middleton, Karen Somes, and our sub, Rose-Gundry White.



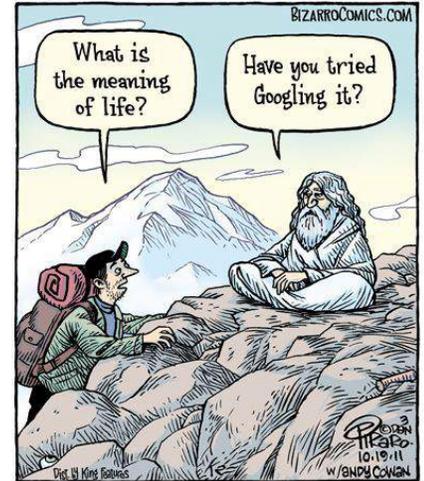
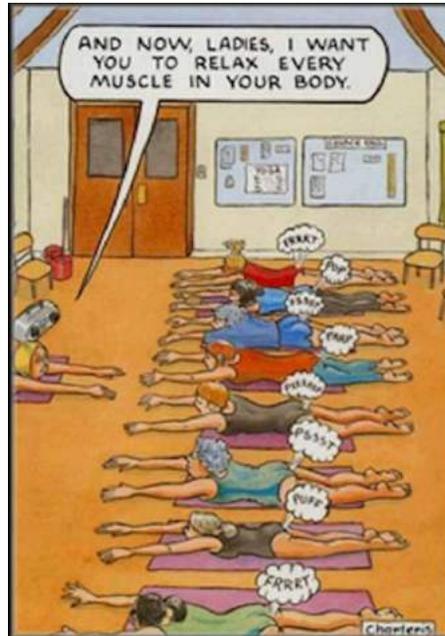
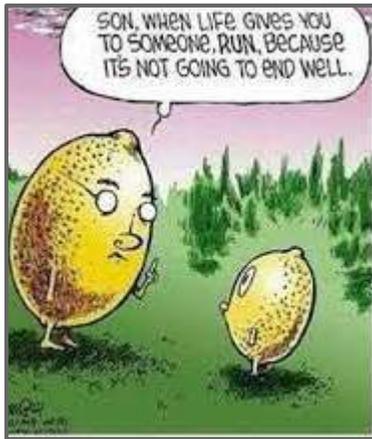
Flower Project Continues Loretta Blessinger



Karen Gutjahr was the star of the most recent flower repurposing. She constructed 25 Bouquets for nursing home residents.

If you would like to help with this project, let Loretta know you want to be on the contact list when flowers come available!

Feel Good Page...



This is the editor's favorite

