



JANUARY

From the editor:

Happy New Year! May all the new adventures be yours this year. May you have good health, good experiences, and good company. Cheers to another year! Wishing you positive new beginnings in 2024

Co-Presidents Corner

January, burr, grey, dark. Thank goodness for Optimists to keep us busy and happy.

This time of year we seem to get re-invigorated. All of a sudden the calendar is open on a new year and ready to be filled. And do we have some opportunities!

- This month we need you to help with our upcoming fundraiser. Based on last year's survey, you voted to have a major fundraiser every other year. **Our small fundraisers**, like the upcoming Swap and Shop, are as much fun as they are money makers. They definitely help, but we need at least a \$5,000 event to keep our coffers healthy for another 2 years. We spend over \$5,000 each year just on books. So let's go big and bold in June and make this happen. Volunteer for the steering committee, it will be fun.
- **Joy is spearheading the OI Essay contest** for us, and we are seeking home schoolers this year for our club contest. Attracting the homeschoolers association is a new endeavor, we'll see how it goes.
- **Swap and Shop is a blast.** We will have a social something, food and good times. What do you have that is special enough it's tough to donate, but it must be worth \$5 or \$10 to someone else?
- **Thanks to Linda Williams**, we are off and running with a new project helping Holm Elementary with the **DPS Shakespeare Program** this winter and spring.
- **January, February, March, April—String Book for Kindergarten** is rolling. If you are organizing a school, put a notice in Tidbits so we can let members know to volunteer.
- Ongoing projects are **Brent's Place and Newborns in Need.**

Together it's amazing what we can accomplish. **Thank you** for the time you give to your club and community!

With Optimism,

Bonnie and Claire

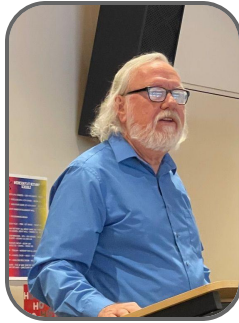
December Programs

Dec 7



Mark Fetterman,
Senior Fraud &
Scams

Dec 14



Rene Knetsch,
Conductor of
Parker Symphony
Orchestra

Dec 28



Brunch at
Benedicts to ring
in the New Year!



Welcome New (Returning) Member - Kathy Eckhardt

I originally joined Tamarac Optimists, right after I retired from my middle school Spanish years at Hamilton. **Barb Althouse** and **Fern Oliner** were my sponsors. My husband John (lawyer) and I moved to Highlands Ranch in time to be full time caretaker for son Brian (also a lawyer) and Christine's new baby Connor. Three and half years later brother Logan came along. With the distance and two little ones I dropped out of TOC.



Fast forward a few years and I am missing the friends and service opportunities of Tamarac Optimists. My good friend **Marilyn Bower** (whom I sponsored) has convinced me to rejoin and I am very happy to be back.

I also have a son David who is scoutmaster of troop 712 (which meets at Bethany) and a Physician Assistant faculty member at Rocky Vista University. Our newest family member is Bärchen (100 pound puppy who aspires to be a citizen dog volunteer someday).

I especially enjoyed and look forward to in-school opportunities. Welcome back Kathy!!

Kenya JOI Club Approved by Bonnie West

Your Board of Directors has approved a 3-year commitment to a new Junior Optimist International (JOI) club in Kenya. The club is at the Tania Center near Nairobi, where children who have been abandoned and those with special needs reside. **Two years ago, member Tamara Kirch and Sister Cities Chair Joseph Odhiambo presented a program to TOC about the Center.** Tamara has been working with the children and center leaders for many years and has now formally organized the JOI club. The club has been named the **Tania Achievers JOI Club** and Tamara meets with them several times a month via Skype. The 227-member group has already completed a tree planting project and have elected officers.

The club chartering funds were sponsored by another entity, but we now have committed to \$100 a year for three years to pay their OI dues. **There is also collaboration from Denver South Rotary Club and the JOI club at Bradley Elementary.**

Given the nine hour time difference between Mountain Time and Kenyan time, the children of the Tania Centre have been receiving the video recordings of our monthly CO/WY District JOI meetings (held week nights in Mountain Time). The Tania Achievers JOI Club has thus learned through the JOI Club leadership in our CO/WY JOI Clubs in this manner.

Note that in developing countries such as Kenya there is no limit to the JOI Club membership for \$100.

General information is as follows:

Club Name: Tania Achievers JOI Club

Name of Sponsoring Optimist Club: Tamarac Optimist Club Club # 25052

Club Adviser: Tamara Kirch nairobiculturallibraryexchange@gmail.com

Optimist Serving as Chairman of Club Committee: Jennifer and Joseph Kigunda

Tania Integrated Centre | Kiserian, Rift Valley | Kenya taniairc@yahoo.com

Club Officers (all club members are residents of Tania Integrated Centre, address noted above)

Melody Nikrote, President Class 8 (equivalent to freshman in high school in USA)

Evan Mutua, Vice President

Jackline Wacera, Secretary

Meldah Gatwiri, Treasurer

Completed club project was a Tree planting ceremony

Mission Viejo Super Citizen Pictures by Bonnie West

December 18 and 19 were designated Super Citizen days at Mission Viejo ES. The awards were two separate days at an assembly in the morning, preschool through 2nd, then 3rd-5th next day. Lots of parents were there.

It was a special assembly because the principal made good on his promise to kiss a toad because of the kids sold over \$10,000 in their fund raiser if you want it. 😊

One of our brochures was taken by a parent.



Principal Andre and teachers line up to call up the kids to honor. Nancy O, Judy B and Diane Z wait at the Optimist table.



Judy Barrow helps the Super Citizens choose a book.



Diane Z sizes the shirts for the Super Citizens

SWAP AND SHOP Thursday, January 25, 2024

Bring nice, new and/or gently-used item(s) to swap

Based on how you value your item, proceed to the \$5 or \$10 table, and exchange it for a poker chip(s)

When your number is called, go swapping and shopping - pick up the item(s) you want and take it to the table checkout, swapping the poker chip(s) for each item

Enjoy treats and socializing while others shop

NEED TO KNOW:

- Brought more items than you swapped for? – thanks for the donation, but no refunds
- If you take more items than you have chips (or didn't bring any) donate for each at the table checkout
- Correct change is appreciated -- Cash or check only
- Take home what doesn't get swapped or it goes to ARC

-Contact Joy with questions – 303-910-6866



Feel Good Page:

Reflections of a Boomer

I've seen fire and I've seen rain.
I've been through the desert on a horse with no name.

I've gone to Kansas City, I've sang in the sunshine.
I've been on the road again, with Georgia on my mind.

Like a rolling stone, I've given peace a chance.
I've put my camel to bed, and danced the last dance.

Mr. Tambourine man played a song for me,
I've whispered words of wisdom, let it be.

I've fell into a burning ring of fire, and walked the line,
To all the girls I've love before, you were always on my mind.

I've been everywhere, I've been so lonesome I could cry,
I've driven my Chevy to the levee when the levee was dry.

I've been to Itchycoo Park in a yellow submarine.
I've made the scene in a time machine.

I've done the Hokey Pokey and turned myself around.
I've welcomed baby back to the poor side of town.

I've followed the tracks of my tears down a long and winding road.
I've kept on searching for a heart of gold.

I've sought shelter from the storm, I've sat on the dock of the bay.
I've rocked around the clock, on a sunshiny day.

I've knocked on Heaven's door, blowing in the wind.
Joy to the world, those were the days my friend.

Lay lady lay, in crimson and clover.
It's been a hard day's night, the party's over.

Uncle Joe



This is the editor's favorite