

From the Editor - Nancy DeNiro

Projects are in full swing! Kiddos at the schools are seeing a lot of the ladies in the blue shirts! My thanks to everyone who sent in photos and articles for this newsletter. Enjoy the read, and don't forget to set your clocks ahead on **March 10!**

Always Stay Optimistic!



From the Prez...

Hello friends!

I'm writing this message on March 1, the day after the celebration of **Sharon Young's** life. What a wonderful, positive and loving experience we had last night while sharing memories of Sharon!

The celebration was beautifully planned by **Shermalee Eikermann** and her committee: **Nadou Lawson, Jeanette Thompson, Linda Williams, Kathy Biamonte, Nancy Wright, and Judy Hein**. And **Tricia Toney** was an outstanding "Master of Ceremonies", setting just the right tone and keep the proceedings moving without rushing anyone. The food and wine were delicious, beautifully presented, and plentiful.

The room looked so nice with individual red roses in vases on each table, thanks to **Sheryl Overton**. **Linda Williams** compiled wonderful photo collages on each table, and a beautiful display of other photos of Sharon on the main table near the entrance. It was moving and interesting and at times hilarious to hear various peoples' memories of Sharon. If you couldn't be there, be sure to ask someone to tell you about the skydiving stories!

I'm so glad our club was able to provide this opportunity for everyone to celebrate Sharon's life. Besides so many Tamarac members, we had Optimists from other clubs; Sharon's golf, skydiving, and other friends; and even Sharon's nephew, **Micah Young**, from Texas in attendance. What a wonderful way to share our friendship and sympathy for others grieving this loss. I want to thank Shermalee for stepping up to coordinate the event, and everyone who contributed time, food, wine, money or remembrances to make this a truly stellar event. Photos are on the next page.

So now we move on to the "greater achievements of the future".

I'm so grateful for all the support and encouragement I've received from so many of you since stepping back in to the role of president. It's been a challenging month for all of us, but I'm confident that we'll get through this and continue to be one of the best Optimist Clubs in the District!

In Optimism, *Cindy*



Tamarac Honors Sharon Young



Tricia Toney Emcee of the evening's program



Claire Young provided the Eulogy



Micah Young, Sharon's nephew from Texas thanked everyone.



Katie Sparks and family were friends of Sharon for many years



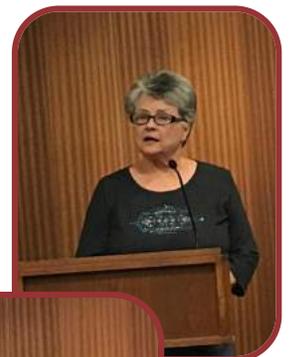
Rick Lopez, one of Sharon's roommates spoke



Karen and Patty were golf buddies



Char & Don St John loved Sharon like a daughter



Sally Evans closed the evening with a poem



...from Celebrate the Temporary by Clyde Reid

Passage read by **Judy Hein** at Sharon Young's Celebration of her life:

Celebrate the Temporary!

Don't wait until Tomorrow,

Live Today.

Celebrate the simple things.

Enjoy the Butterfly.

Embrace the Snow.

Run with the Ocean.

Delight in the Trees,

or a Single Lonely Flower.

Go Barefoot in West Grass.

Don't wait

Until all the problems are Solved

or all the bills are paid,

You will wait Forever.

Eternity will come and go and you

Will still be waiting.

Live in the now

With all its problems and its agonies

With its Joy and its Pain.

Celebrate your pain

Your Despair

Your Anger.

It means you're Alive.

Look Closer.

Breathe Deeper.

Stand Taller.

Stop grieving the Past.

There is joy and Beauty Today.

It's Temporary

Here Now and Gone

So Celebrate it will you can.

Celebrate the Temporary!



Happy Bucks Committee..... Jenny Spampinato

A \$500 check was presented by **Jenny Spampinato** representing the Happy Bucks Committee to **Yoal Ghebremeskel**, co-founder and Executive Director of **Street Fraternity**, a place of brotherhood and personal growth for urban young men.

Their goal is to attract urban young men's **voluntary participation** to gain an **understanding** of the participants and their backgrounds. They help them **identify their opportunities, challenges, and goals**, to develop **positive young men** who understand how to balance aggression with respect, Integrity, and ethics.

In the meantime, thank you for all your support and keep those Happy Bucks coming!



February Speakers



February 7

Open Forum



February 14

Lois Jean Gallaway

Peace Corps
Experiences in
Guatemala



February 21

Teresa Devine

The Blue Bench -
Rape awareness
and assistance



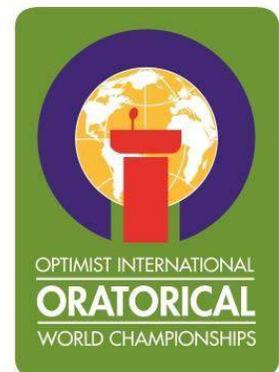
February 28

Celebration of the
Life of Sharon Young

The Oratorical Contest is Coming Soon! Tricia Toney

Tamarac OC's Oratorical Contest will be at Prairie Middle School again this year. It will take place on **March 13th (Wednesday), at Prairie Middle School**. Volunteers need to be there at 4:30 to start setting up the room for the contest.

We still need one judge, and another registration person. But I need to see the sign-up sheet. Will give you for-sure info after Thursday.



AND -- even if you don't want to participate in an official capacity, I am encouraging members to come as part of the audience to encourage and support these kids.

Historically there aren't many parents (anyone) in the audience. **Audience is important.** It's good practice for these kids to have an audience. And showing up to listen is a way that we can show these kids that what they have to offer matters in the world.

Tamarac Brings Dr Seuss to Kindergartners Carol Grams



Shoemaker Elementary School

Celebrating Dr Seuss's birthday with kindies started on February 27-28 with 2 schools, 1 school on March 4, with 3 more schools on the schedule in March and May.

Tamarac Talk will have a **Seuss Supplement** after **The last school**, but here are a few pictures from visits Already in the books!



Holm Elementary School



Time to Sign up for Rockies Baseball Fundraisers



Now is the time to express your interest in participating in the promotional fundraisers before the Rockies games. This entails handing out whatever promotional items (hats, shirts, water bottles, coupons) to the incoming fans before the game. Volunteers receive a shirt and a ticket for that day to stay and see the game! What a deal! And it is a lot of fun working and playing together!

Interest sheets will be passed at the meetings, but if you won't be there and want to be contacted for your availability for the game, email ndeni4@gmail.com to have your name added!

Tri-Star Basketball Tournament A Success! Joyce Laman

Tamarac's Tri-Star Basketball was at a new location this year – **Montclair Recreation Center** in Lowry. The gym is big, the room is large, there are bleachers for parents and families, and space around the outside for our tables! And best of all, we had good attendance and the kids had a great time. Most were first-timers to Tri-Star. We had 26 boys but only 7 girls. I have discussed the low girl attendance with my contact at Montclair – who was also the person doing most of the outreach to the other Rec. Centers. He hinted they didn't do enough to reach the girls and that they would do a better job next year.

We had 19 Tamarac volunteers: **Carolyn Bamford, Loretta Blessinger, Joy Criminger, Nancy DeNiro, Laura Hoch, Verlee Greene, Karen Gutjahr, Hatty McGuire, Sandy Middleton, Abigail Nicholas, Judy Reed, Sue Slaby, Jeanette Thompson, Joyce Thomson, Tricia Toney, Kathleen Williams, Linda Williams, Claire Young, and Joyce Laman.** We also had several Monaco South spouses and Tri-Star leaders. Thank you everyone!



The next date for Tri-Star is the **East Metro Regional competition on Sunday March 10 at Denver North High School.** The final phase is the **District competition on Sunday, March 31 at the Pepsi Center followed by a Nuggets game against the Wizards.** We encourage Optimists to come to the March 31, 6 PM game and order your tickets online through our Tri-Star web site at reduced rates.

www.tristarbasketball.org A portion of each ticket sold through our website helps fund the program.

More volunteers are needed for these 2 events!!



February G.O.G. (Girls On the Go) - Kathy Sullivan, Chair

You know you grew up in Denver if you remember when the Denver Auditorium was used for high school basketball state tournaments, concerts, etc. It was built in 1908. The building looks somewhat the same on the outside but not so much on the inside. After being remodeled and opened in 2005 as the **Elli Caulkins Opera House**, it is now home to the **Colorado Opera** and **Colorado Ballet**. On February 19, twenty-three of the Tamarac ladies took a tour of this beautiful facility.

We started our tour in the lobby where a Chihuly hangs from the ceiling. There is a life-like statue of famous ballet dancers. Our tour guides took us everywhere. We saw the performers' dressing rooms and as well as the orchestra pit. They have a very nice restaurant, and many of the art pieces there were Kirkland's work. Other art consists of famous operas and some of the costumes from the operas and ballets performed at the Opera House. Even with the remodeling they have kept some of the original structure. When we walked on stage of the theater that holds 2000, it was breathtaking.



A wonderful time was had by all.

Plans for a GOG in the month of April are still in the works.

The agenda for the **Leadville trip** will be coming out very soon. If you are planning to go, it would be a good idea to get your reservation into the motel.

We will be staying at the **Silver King Motel**.
The number is 1-719-486-2610.



Whose News....Bits & Pieces collected by Claire Young

From Valentine's day - - **Loretta Blessinger** celebrated her 25th anniversary, and **Sandy Middleton** visited the Broadmoor. Former 1st grade teacher **Carolyn Bamford** had this advice, "Don't give a roomful of kids colored frosting on valentine cookies!!!" Carolyn also was seen at Tri-Star basketball sporting stitches from yet another fall. **Late news flash: Beda Collins** broke her ankle in three places last Friday while skiing. She's getting a cast this week and says "no more skiing for this old lady." Those were her words.

Music & Arts notes: **Ruth Larson** got to hear the great Itzhak Perlman as a Christmas gift. **Barb Althouse** sold her antique accordion from college days for a whopping \$75. **Kathy Sullivan's** granddaughter is in Kansas Honor Choir. **Hatty, Abigail, and Loretta** all highly recommend the Dior exhibit at the DAM.

Travels: **Dee Carsten** will be in Lincoln, NE for her great-grandson's first birthday. Not to be out-done, **Hatty** heads to Illinois later this month to visit 5 great-grandchildren plus another in Iowa. **Abigail** is off to Utah for 5 days of primitive camping with Kent. **Mary Dealy** spent a few days in Las Vegas. **Marilyn Hodges** is heading to New Zealand, and last but not least, **Joy Criminger** enjoyed a visit from her Iowa sister, Jolene.

SAVE THESE DATES: Note* Tamarac Optimist Club relies on fundraising efforts year-round to support the many projects for the youth in our communities. We also support those of other Optimist Clubs in the CO/WY District

**Celebrating 100 Years
of Optimism**



**DTC Optimist
Club Annual
Fundraiser
WINE TASTING
& SILENT
AUCTION**

**Saturday,
April 6, 2019
1:00 TO 4:00PM
Calvary Baptist Church
6500 E Girard
Denver, CO**

**TICKETS
\$25.00**

*** WINE & APPETIZERS ***

This is a fun night that benefits Aurora Children!

**3rd Annual
Heather Gardens Optimist Club
Nite at the Races**
Sandburg Auditorium-Heather Gardens Clubhouse



**Saturday
April 13
starting at
5 pm**

Tickets: \$25

Includes \$20 in FUNNY MONEY & DINNER

Place your funny money on pre-recorded horse races!

**FUNdraiser to benefit the children of Aurora,
who the Optimist are dedicated to supporting.**

Purchase Tickets Contact Jeannine Montgomerie
309.310.5315
jmntg.1229@gmail.com