

THE GEO OPTIPINION



For the future!



Volume 50 Issue 4

www.gardenaoptimist.org

January 2014

A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE GARDENA EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB
ZONE 2 – PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

President's Message —

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. It is now time to start off the New Year with some exciting events and activities. First off is our first members' meeting of the year at Cherrystones, and then we will hold our annual visitation to the Westside Optimist Club. And then in February the Club will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary, and we are now busy making plans to make this a fantastic and memorable event. More information will be coming your way. Please reserve Saturday, February 22nd, on your calendar to join in the fun and festivities.



Last month we celebrated Christmas with our annual Christmas Party. We also held our annual Food and Toy Drive. I would like to thank everyone who donated toys and food this year for the families in need. We had a smaller turn out this year, but a great time was had by all. I would like to personally thank Dave Allen and his committee for taking care of all the cooking and decorations. Also a special thanks go out to Scoutmaster Kevin Aoyagi and the Boys Scouts of Troop 683 and their families for dropping off all the canned food and toys collected. This year's donation from GEO to the Gardena Food Pantry was: 14 bags of food (140 cans), 6 cases of food, and 20 toys. The pantry conveyed their thanks and appreciation to all for the donations.

During the year there will be some great events and meetings for everyone to get more involved in the club. I would like to see all of you at least once throughout this year. There will be announcements made monthly about upcoming events in our newsletter, via email and on the [Club Calendar](#) on our website so keep in touch and let's make this a wonderful and exceptional year.

Yours In Optimism,
Charles "Zee" Zimmer

Save the Date!

Jan 7, 7:00 p.m. – First Member Meeting of the Year at Cherrystones in Gardena.

Jan 14, 7:00 p.m. - Board of Directors Meeting at JCI.

Jan 21, 7:00 p.m. - Annual Visitation with Westside Optimist Club at Denny's in Culver City.

Jan 31 - Deadline for Essay Contest and Youth Tennis League entries/applications. Help spread the word and promote these activities.

Feb 22 - GEO 50th Anniversary Luau at JCI Hall (MARK YOUR CALENDARS...more information to come!).

CHECK CLUB CALENDAR AT

<http://www.gardenaoptimist.org/calendar.htm>

Optimist International President



Jim and Samia Carroll, OI President, Ron Huxley, and Jeanette Mena at PSWD Holiday Dinner held at Wolf Creek Restaurant in Santa Clarita on 12/27

GEO 50th Anniversary Luau Celebration

A special ad hoc 50th Anniversary Committee has been formed consisting of all the past presidents to plan our Club's gala 50th anniversary celebration which will be held Saturday, February 22nd, at the JCI Hall. We plan on making this a luau feast with entertainment in commemoration of our club's heritage and affiliation with Hawaiian culture.

If you have any personal club memorabilia that you would like to share for the event, please contact any member of the committee, and we will be sure that it gets returned to you. We are planning on setting up several display tables to highlight our club's activities and community service over the past half century. If you would like to help out on the committee and assist during the event or have any ideas on how we can make this truly a memorable and fun event, please let me know.

~Jim Carroll,
50th Anniversary Committee Chair

Visitation to Carson Youth Home



Jeanette Mena and Ron Hom provided Holiday ukulele entertainment as they joined with JAO club members for our annual visitation to the Optimist Youth Home in Carson on December 19th. The five youth who reside in the home were perfect hosts to all of the attendees. The potluck filled the dining room table with lots of delicious dishes. Jeanette and Ron presented the residents with holiday gift cards on behalf of the club.

Youth Tennis League

The GEO Youth Team Tennis program is for children 10 years and younger. Featuring the QuickStart Tennis play format, which uses age appropriate equipment and courts scaled to the size of the players. GEO Youth Team Tennis makes the game more accessible -and more fun- by allowing kids to get involved right from the start.

WHO CAN PLAY:

GEO Youth Team Tennis program is for girls and boys ages 6-10 as of December 2, 2013. Whether or not your child has ever held a racquet, there's a spot on the team for them. NOTE: Registrations are accepted on a first come-first served basis.

LEAGUE SEASON:

Season will be a 6 week season played on Saturdays from March 29, 2014 to May 10, 2014. There will be a bye on April 19th for Easter.

PLAYING LOCATION:

Matches will be played at Arthur Johnson Park, 1200 West 170th Street, Gardena, CA 90247 from 9am to approximately 1pm.

TEAM FORMAT:

Co-ed teams of 5-7 players with each player playing at least one match (singles or doubles) per week. Players will be assigned to teams according to age and tennis ability level. NOTE: A minimum of 20 players are required to conduct this league and a maximum of 28 players will be accepted due to availability of facilities and time slots for match play.

DIVISIONS:

Two divisions: 8U: 8andUnder (ages 6-8) and 10U: 10andUnder (ages 9&10).

EVERY PLAYER WILL RECEIVE:

Team Shirt and end of season participation medals/trophies.

COST:

Cost for the program is \$40 per player per season.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information please contact Jim Carroll at 310-415-0196 or at info@gardenaoptimist.org. Registration forms available at www.gardenaoptimist.org.



Message from PSWD Governor James Minyard

December 10, 2013



Face to Face with Pacific Southwest District



I have experienced meeting an amazing collection of members throughout the Pacific Southwest District by visiting clubs. I am drawn to each new face that is seen in each club. The diversity of each individual club and its members is a “must” experience. Each club has its own charm and attraction that draws me closer. What pleasure it is to arrive at each event, seeing new faces and smiles, which becomes a mainspring for reflection upon “The Spirit of the Creed”.

The primary purpose of our Pacific Southwest District is to develop relationships. The relationships are first toward each other within the club, next to the organization as a whole, then outward to those we serve and honor.

The theme “The Spirit of the Creed” provides a motivating force to live a fulfilling life characterized by those ten tenets of the Optimist Creed. The motto for this year for your Pacific Southwest District is “Providing Hope and a Positive Vision”. We are committed to each other and actively seek opportunities to help each other and encourage the members of our organization.

Our District is not merely an organization of “other” people. It is an entity consisting of “us” as individuals coming together, functioning in our clubs to “Bring Out The Best In Kids” and making a difference for the kids. The “us” has so many different events that it is difficult to characterize them in any manner other than saying that they are terrific.

Unless you have gone out to visit other member clubs and events within the district, events such as those honoring our youth, respect for law, quarterlies and zone meetings, it is difficult to realize the importance of relationships. Only then you do begin to understand the camaraderie and training needed to ensure the future success of Pacific Southwest District and Optimist International. By enlisting others into the service of your club and engaging them and sharing with them, only then do we realize the prospect of successful service is many times greater.

This year, let us make the third tenant of the Optimist Creed, “To make all your friends feel that there is something *unique (word added)* in them,” come alive.” Coming face to face with others, and activating this tenant will assist you in creating a larger network in which you may operate to invite individuals to join with you in your service to the community.

As the year progresses, I hope to visit each club and keep uppermost in mind another tenant, “To think only the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.” I look forward to seeing you, working alongside you and make this a banner year for Pacific Southwest.

The entire team of leaders in our Pacific Southwest District is well trained and eager to join us. They understand the commitment to “The Spirit of the Creed” and are motivated to ensure your success.



LESS	MORE
TALKING	LISTENING
PLANNING	DOING
SODA	TEA
JUNK FOOD	SALADS
COMPLAINING	ENCOURAGING
WORRYING	HOPING
DOUBTING	BELIEVING
LAZING AROUND	WORKING OUT
FROWNING	SMILING
INSECURITY	TRUST
WEAKNESS	CONFIDENCE
IGNORANCE	UNDERSTANDING
HATE	LOVE
UNGRATEFULNESS	GRATITUDE



If you're ready to make the most of 2014.... here's a blueprint to help you start imagining your next step.

by Martha Beck (Martha Beck's latest book is [The Martha Beck Collection: Essays for Creating Your Right Life, Volume One](#)(Martha Beck Inc.).

1. Have a Vision

Begin basing choices on what makes you feel freer and happier, rather than how you think an ideal life should look. Start by finding images from magazines (or from books or the Internet) that depict your desired future and glue them to a large piece of butcher paper. If that makes you roll your eyes, I understand. But this strategy often works. The board itself doesn't impact reality; what changes your life is the process of selecting the images—which will stick in your subconscious and steer your choices in a direction that helps make the vision real.

2. Let Go of What Doesn't Work

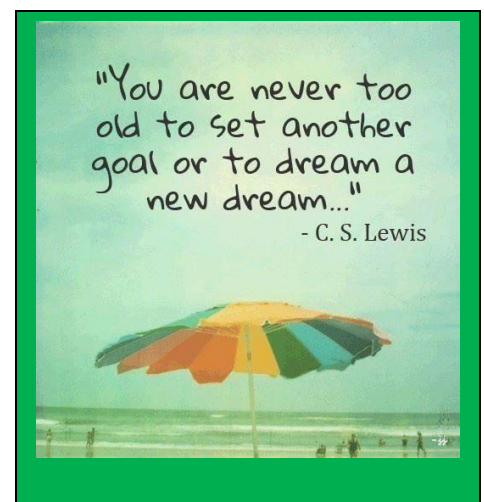
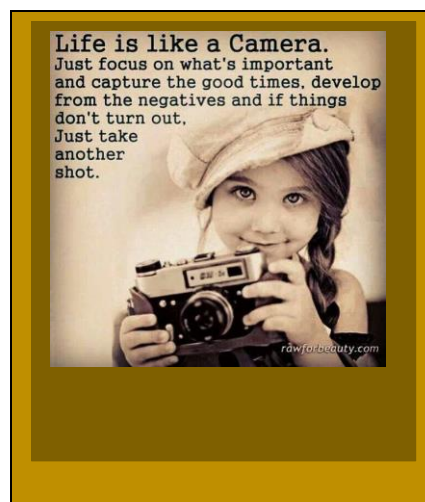
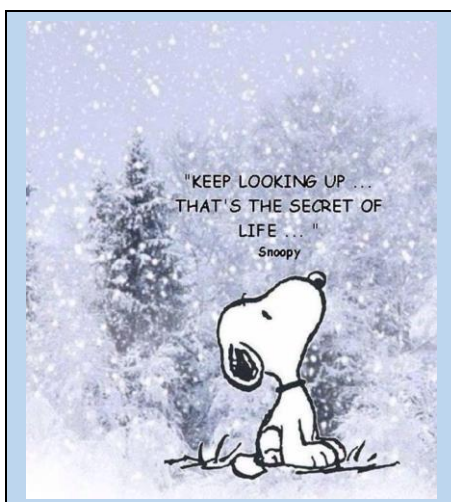
Consider those things you'd like to release from your life—bad habits, toxic friends, old grudges—and as you hold them in your mind's eye, inhale while silently repeating, "Let it happen." When you exhale, think, "Let it go." Practice this consistently, and you can strip most of the trauma and drama right out of your world.

3. Don't Be Afraid to Fail

People who worry about mistakes become paralyzed by that worry, but those who are relaxed about doing badly soon learn to do well. Success is built on failure. Job burnout? It's steering you toward your perfect career. An awful relationship? It's teaching you what love means. Finding a problem's solution is what gives life its gusto.

4. Pay Attention to What Really Matters to You

If you tend to include others' priorities in your decision making, you must untangle yourself to know what's important. This can be difficult at first, but you'll soon discover that your life is waiting to help you choose what's right for you, even when other people tell you that their own code-red desires should take priority. It does this by making things taxing when they're not important, and delicious and relatively effortless when they are. Life feels good when it thrills you—and bad when it doesn't.





The GEO Essay Contest Committee is now seeking entries for the Optimist International 2013-2014 Essay Contest. The contest affords young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity win a college scholarship.

Topic: "How Dreams Lead to Success"
When: Club Deadline Jan. 31, 2014
Who: Youth under age 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent

The Optimist International Essay Contest was first sponsored in 1983. Club winners advance to the District contest. District winners are awarded a plaque and a \$2500 scholarship and are invited to attend an awards luncheon at the District's 3rd Quarterly Meeting in May 2014. All scholarships are administered by Optimist International and funded by the Optimist International Foundation. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

Students interested in entering our club's Essay Contest may [click here](#) for the official rules and entry form, or they may contact Jim Carroll, Essay Chair, at (310) 415-0196 for more information.

Entry forms are to be mailed to:

Gardena Evening Optimist Club
P.O. Box 2132
Gardena, CA 90247
Attn: Essay Chair

Or emailed to: info@gardenaoptimist.org

The GEO Oratorical Contest Committee is now seeking entries for the Optimist International 2013-2014 Oratorical Contest. Every year since our foundation, we've actively recruited contestants from local schools, churches, other organizations, and our own members for our club's Oratorical Contest. This speech contest is designed to inspire today's youth to motivate and inform others through the art of public speaking. It provides young people with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship and express their views on a pre-assigned topic.

Topic: "How My Passions Impact the World"
When: Club Deadline Mar. 2, 2014
Who: Youth under age 19 who have not graduated from high school or equivalent

Each contestant must prepare a speech that is four to five minutes in duration, and given in front of an audience and three judges. Optimist members and qualified members of the community are selected as judges. This is a combined gender contest and our club's first and second place winners will then compete at the Zone level. The winner of the Zone contest will move up to an Area contest for Zones in the same geographical area. The winner of the Area contest goes on to the District finals which will be held in May 2014 at the District's 3rd Quarterly Meeting. The District prizes are: 1st Place-\$2,500 scholarship, 2nd Place-\$1,500 scholarship, and 3rd Place-\$1,000 scholarship.

If you know of any youth who may be interested in entering our club's Oratorical Contest, contact Jim Carroll at (310) 415-0196 for more information. The official entry form is available [here](#).



TENNIS: ADVANTAGE KIDS

A revolutionary change in the way kids 10 and under learn and play tennis, as well as compete, is happening across the country, and your kids should be a part of it! Smaller courts, lighter and lower bouncing balls and smaller and lighter racquets fit your child's size. It all makes it easy and fun for them to hit, play and score from the start – while developing skills that will last a lifetime.

Spring Youth Tennis League Sign-ups!!

The third season of the GEO (Gardena Evening Optimist Club) and City of Gardena 10andUnder Youth TennisLeague begins March 29, 2014. All matches will be held on Saturdays at Arthur Johnson Park for six weeks.

Contact Jim Carroll at 310-415-0196 or email to info@gardenaoptimist.org. Visit www.gardenaoptimist.org for more information and registration forms.



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Ed Herrera	Jim Carroll
Ron Shintani	Sid Halushka

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jim Carroll-Chairman Jeanette Mena -Assistant
 Mikey Williams - Photographer

THE OPTIMIST CREED

PROMISE YOURSELF:

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

—Christian D. Larson

THE OPTIPINION
P.O. BOX 2132
GARDENA, CA 90247

PSWD 2013-2014 THEME



**To look at the sunny side of everything
 and make your optimism come true.**

