

# THE GEO OPTIPINION



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January 2013

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 the holidays were as exciting for everyone as it was for my family and myself. It is now time to start off the New Year with some exciting events and activities with the club. Last month we celebrated Christmas at our annual Christmas Party.



We had a great time with all the familiar and new faces at the party. During the Christmas Party we also collected canned food and toys for the benefit of the Gardena Food Pantry, which was a great success.

During January we will have a club visitation with the Westside club on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Pann's Restaurant. This is a great opportunity to meet with some members from another club and see what is happening in their club. I hope to also see everyone at a meeting or two throughout the year. Don't forget about all the events and activities that will be coming during the year as well. In addition to newsletter articles, periodic email announcements will be sent out and updates posted to our website and club calendar as information becomes available for our upcoming events and activities. Stay tuned – stay informed – be involved. All the best for the New Year!

Yours In Optimism,  
Stacy Cascadden

Happy New Year

## Save the Date!

**Jan 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!** No Meeting

**Jan 8, 7:00 p.m.** - Board of Directors' Meeting in Room 204 of the JCI.

**Jan 15, 7:00 p.m.** - Club Visitation with Westside Optimist Club at Pann's Restaurant, 6710 La Tijera Blvd. L.A. 90045.

**Jan 31-** Deadline for Essay Contest entries and Youth Tennis League registrations. Help spread the word.

**CHECK CLUB CALENDAR AT**

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & MAPS**



## Visitation to Carson Youth Home

Members of GEO joined JAO, the Montebello-Bella Vista Optimist Club and Sil Orlando and his staff members from the Optimist Youth Home and Family Services for a delightful visitation to the Youth Home in Carson on December 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Ron Hom taught the boys a couple of songs on the piano which they enjoyed. The two ukulele playing Rons (Hom and Shintani), along with Jeanette Mena, Steve Awakuni, Mitch and Elinor joined in with their ukuleles and accompanied the singing of the Christmas carols.

JAO member Jeff Tani took photos and printed them up for the residents with the beautifully decorated tree in the background atop the roof with Santa looking at his list.

GEO member Glenn Shimizu donated the Hawaiian print duffle bags that he sews and distributes. The little sisters of the residents were very happy to get a bag too as Glenn drove back to his house to get more bags.

This annual visitation is a welcomed event by the residents of the home who have had to work very diligently in their studies and performance of living together responsibly as a family unit. Thanks to Leland Lau for making all the arrangements for this wonderful visit each year!

~Jeanette Mena



Carson Youth Home Staff welcoming visitors



GEO, JAO and Montebello-Bella Vista Club Members



Leland Lau, Jeanette Mena and Doug from Montebello-Bella Vista Optimist Club



Ron Shintani, Sil Orlando and Gilbert Mena

## GEO Christmas Party 2012

The GEO Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup> at JCI brought together GEO members and their families and friends for a joyous celebration of the holiday season. We were entertained by ukulele players Ron Hom, Ron Shintani, Terry Weber, Sam Sarria and Steve Awakuni with a blend of Hawaiian music and Christmas carols. Patty Yanaga and the choir from Gardena Valley Baptist Church filled the air with their melodic voices.

The GEO cooks were busy all morning cooking up their turkeys and hams. Thanks to Charlie Oyagi, Zee Zimmer, Madam President Stacy Cascadden, Patty Yanaga, Deryck Koga, Bill Coonce, Mike Tsuge, Sid Halushka, Jim Carroll, Dave Allen, Justin Carroll, Eddie Herrera, Ron Shintani, Terry Terauchi and Jun Goeku for their culinary expertise in making this a fantastic meal that we all enjoyed immensely. A great big thank you to the help in the kitchen as they prepped and panned up the food for serving goes to Emily Lopez, Natalie Rascon, Dora Ceballos, Blanca Mendoza, Kaye Joson and the many others that were in the kitchen.

Mikey Williams kept busy all night long as he photographed and took pictures that were most suitable for framing and remembering this joyous season. His photos caught the twinkle in everyone's eyes as they grouped together with family members, Boy Scout troop members and the most wanted pictures with Santa. Everyone looked great and the photos with their cute photo frames were certainly a treasure to enjoy.

Guests were able to complete their shopping lists with our See's Candies fundraiser, Lauren Luvs Jewelry, Krisp Krafts and Kirk's Gearwise for pets. Terry and Ping even brought their dog Benji to shop.

Nicholas Awakuni and his friend Christine taught many of us some fancy origami folding techniques. It came in handy for gift cards and assorted little gifts that fit perfectly in the origami boxes and card enclosures.

The fabulous bakers and cooks from Boy Scout Troop 683 filled the dessert table with delicious and decadent delicacies that satisfied everyone's sweet tooth. Thank you to the scout's families for their awesome desserts.

The visit from Santa Woody was the highlight of the evening as everyone sang "Here Comes Santa Claus" to get Santa Woody in from the cold to the delight of the young party attendees. Gifts galore were handed out to the youngsters and members of our two families that were selected to share in the joy of the season. Our thanks to Susie Santana from Gardena Parks and Recreation for giving us the opportunity to share with these families.

The Toy and Food Drive that benefited the Gardena Food Pantry netted 12 bags and 3 boxes of canned and boxed food, a case of cup of noodles and 44 new toys. Thank you to Scoutmaster Kevin Aoyagi who delivered the items to the Gardena Food Pantry.

The night ended with the Boy Scouts doing an outstanding job of cleaning up the hall.

We want to wish GEO member Patty Yanaga a hardy "See you soon" as she has now retired from the City of Gardena and moved to Denver, Colorado to help her sister take care of their dad. The Christmas party and all our dinner meetings were made more joyous thanks to all the work that Patty did.

Wishing you all the best of the holiday season and we look forward to the many adventures of 2013!

~Jeanette Mena



Our Hard Working Kitchen Staff Volunteers  
Blanca, Raeleen, Dora, Natalie, Kaye and Emily

# 2012 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



# 2012 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY





The GEO Essay Contest Committee is now seeking entries for the Optimist International 2012-2013 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 Can I Help My Friends Realize Their Value?"**

**When: Club Deadline Jan. 31, 2013**

**Who: Youth under age 19 as of 12/31/12 who have not yet graduated from high school**

The Optimist International Essay Contest was first sponsored in 1983. Club winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. Each District winner is automatically entered into the International Essay contest where a panel of judges selects the first-place winner. The international winner will receive an engraved plaque and recognition in *The Optimist* magazine.

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](mailto:info@gardenaoptimist.org)

The GEO Oratorical Contest Committee is now seeking entries for the Optimist International 2012-2013 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: "Why My Voice Is Important"**

**When: Club Deadline Mar. 2, 2013**

**Who: Youth under age 19 who have not graduated from high school**

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 June 2, 2013 at the District 3rd Quarterly Meeting in Ventura. 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 rackets 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 second season of the GEO (Gardena Evening Optimist Club) and City of Gardena 10andUnder Youth Tennis League will begin April 6, 2013. 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](mailto:info@gardenaoptimist.org). Visit [www.gardenaoptimist.org](http://www.gardenaoptimist.org) for more information and registration forms.



[10andUnderTennis.com](http://10andUnderTennis.com)

**OFFICERS**

President .....Stacy Cascadden  
 Vice President .....Bill Coonce  
 Vice President ..... Deryck Koga  
 Secretary .....Jun Goeku  
 Treasurer .....Ron Shintani  
 IPP ..... Ron Hom

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

First Year Members

Dave Allen  
 Jim Carroll  
 Sid Halushka

Second Year Members

Justin Carroll  
 Jeanette Mena  
 Glenn Shimizu

**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**



**CLOSING THOUGHTS...**

“Life isn't about keeping score. It's not about how many people call you and it's not about who you've dated, are dating, or haven't dated at all. It isn't about who you've kissed, what sport you play, or which girl or guy likes you. It's not about your shoes or your hair or the color of your skin or where you live or go to school. In fact, it's not about grades, money, clothes, or colleges that accept you. Life isn't about if you have lots of friends, or if you are alone, and it's not about how accepted or unaccepted you are. Life just isn't about that. But life is about who you love and who you hurt. It's about how you feel about yourself. It's about trust, happiness, and compassion. It's about sticking up for your friends and replacing inner hate with love. Life is about avoiding jealousy, overcoming ignorance, and building confidence. It's about what you say and what you mean. It's about seeing people for who they are and not what they have. Most of all, it's about choosing to use your life to touch someone else's in a way that could never have been achieved otherwise. These choices are what life's about.”

~Nike Ad