

Sparks

Official Newsletter of the
Superior Optimist Club

April 2011



Letter from the President



Greetings fellow Optimists,

Did you know?? As of this month, it is the **60th anniversary** for the Superior Optimist Club!!! Maybe we should have cake with our meatballs? :-)

REMEMBER – our meatball dinner will be Wednesday **April 27 at Cathedral**. This event is one of only two fundraisers we do, and **we need your help!!** Be sure to sell all your tickets and help with the event as much as possible (even if it's just putting up posters and telling all your friends).

Our next “New Member Focus” meeting will be April 13th – please mark your calendar and plan to attend, as it is very important we provide a warm welcome to potential new members.

We continue to keep Gene Chuzles and his family in our thoughts and prayers as he recovers from a quadruple bypass. Gene – we are thinking of you and hoping for a speedy recovery!

Want to be more involved?? We need someone to step up as president for next year. I would be happy to answer any of your questions and squelch the fears. (For example – I haven't been there every Wednesday. There ARE very helpful people in the club willing to step in when needed.) Also, if you've ever served as president in the past, then it would be even easier to step in for a year. Please send me an email if you are interested – Kim.Pearson@witc.edu.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Optimism,

Kim



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 13th - Wednesday

***New Member Focus
Meeting***



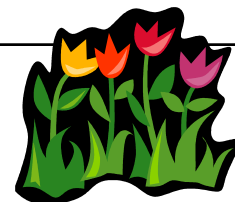
April 20th - Wednesday

Board Meeting

April 27th - Wednesday

Meatball Dinner Fundraiser

4:30 - 7:00 PM



PROGRAMS for April

April 6th

Chad Scott
AMI Consulting Engineers P.A.

April 13th

Lori Closson
North County Independent Living

April 20th

Jim Kehoe
Ronald McDonald House

April 27th

Klete Fallowfield
AECOM

"Buttercups, bright eyed and bold, hold their chalices of gold to catch the sunshine and the dew." (quote by Julia Caroline Dorr).

Last month, Theresa Roberts wrote about "March and the Promise of Spring." April is the first full month of the promised Spring. The Romans call this fourth month, **Aprilis**, meaning "to **open**." In our Northern Hemisphere, as the chill leaves the air, and the birds fly northward, flowers are revitalized and buds emerge and **open** to brighter **sunlight** and longer days.

During these tumultuous, polarizing times, it is especially important for me to always be as an emerging bud, keeping my heart and mind continuously **open** to the **sunlight**. "Be like the flower, turn your face to the **sun**." (quote by Kahlil Gibran).

As the very wise Benjamin Franklin once said, "Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the **sunlight**."

I will not succumb to pessimism during these difficult times. I will remain an optimist by staying in the **sunlight**. As my favorite famous person, Helen Keller, once said, "No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or **opened** a new heaven to the human spirit." Susan J. Bissonette's quote reminds me that..."An optimist is the human personification of spring." When the **sun** is shining I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome." (quote by Wilma Rudolph).

Yes, in fact if I keep in the **sunlight**, I may possibly help other people to do the same by ".....illuminating the fog that surrounds us." (quote by Henri Matisse).

Hopefully, I'm not crazy, but I always try to remember: "If we learn to **open** our hearts, anyone, including the people who drive us crazy, can be our teacher." (quote by Pema Chodron).

How do we find solutions to the problems and peaceful endings to today's conflicts? According to Bernie S. Siegel, "If you watch how nature deals with adversity, continually renewing itself, you cannot help but learn." This renewal is not possible unless you keep **open** to the **sunlight**, since, according to Louis Brandeis, "**Sunlight** is the best disinfectant." I say, "thank you, God," for that renewal and that..."No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." (quote by Hal Borland)

If we close our eyes (or our minds and hearts) to the **sunlight** we will never find the solutions we are looking for. Or, as Roman Philosopher, Lucius Seneca once said, "The great blessings of mankind are within us and within our reach; but we shut our eyes, and, like people in the dark, we fall foul upon the very thing we search for, without finding it."

Even Helen Keller, blind and deaf, knew how to be **open** to the **sunlight**, as she said, "I believe that God is in me, as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower, the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence."

I will close with this Traditional Irish Blessing: ***May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart till it glows like a great fire and strangers may warm themselves as well as friends. And may the light shine out of the eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.***



Winners/Losers for March 2011

3/2

FREE MEAL: Roger Bare, *Won*
JACKPOT: Dick Keskinen, *Won (\$13)*
ATTENDANCE: Gary Dunning, *Won*

3/9

FREE MEAL: Mark Hubbard, *Lost*
JACKPOT: George Glonek, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Anita King, *Won*

3/16

FREE MEAL: Dave Cochrane, *Won*
JACKPOT: Roger Bare, *Won*
ATTENDANCE: Dave Lemaster, *Won*

3/23

FREE MEAL: Anita King, *Lost*
JACKPOT: Scott Bruce, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Kim Pearson, *Won*



3/30

FREE MEAL: Rick Rockwood, *Lost*
JACKPOT: Tim Gallagher, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Jan Amys, *Won*

Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists

for the month of March

Rachel Radzak & Jacklyn Lockwood



Rachel Radzak and Jacklyn Lockwood, both juniors at Superior High School, were selected as the Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of March.

Rachel is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS FBLA, prom committee, and past cross country, basketball, and track and field. She is a member of Douglas County Youth Leadership and received an Outstanding Artist award in 2010. She played Junior Olympic volleyball and recreation league basketball. She volunteers at her church. Rachel is the daughter of David and Bobbie Radzak. Her plans after high school are to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a career as a psychiatrist.

Jacklyn is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS Forensics, public speaking, and Harvard Model UN. She performs in the band "Misguided," volunteers at SMDC, and is involved with ballroom dancing and ballet. She likes to learn new skills, and completed the Emergency Medical Technician certificate at WITC. Jacklyn would like to attend college majoring in forensic anthropology and foreign languages with a minor in performance music. She is the daughter of David Lockwood and Maria Lockwood.

The students have been joining the Optimist Club for weekly luncheon meetings. They will have the opportunity next fall to apply for a \$1000 community service award sponsored by the club.

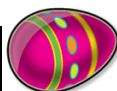
Optimist Anniversaries

Gene Chuzles
1998 (13 years)



George Glonek
&
Kelly Thimm
2000 (11 years)

Superior Optimist Club
60 YEARS!



Program Chairman - Jan Jago

Prize Sponsor - Theresa Roberts

Keep in your
Thoughts/Prayers

Gene Chuzles



Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

Dick Keskinen



Happy Birthday !

Printing Compliments of Bill Downs &
the Downs-LeSage Funeral Home

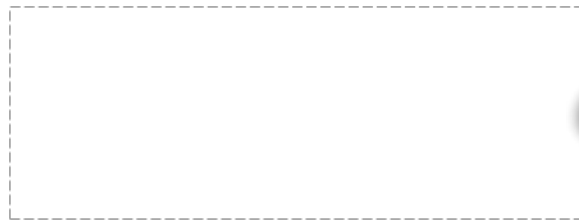
Assistant Editor - Judy Carlson

In Loving Memory of Merrill Thompson & Bill Downs, Jr.

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.



Easter

Superior Optimist Club
P.O. Box 1143
Superior, WI 54880

