



# Sparks



Official Newsletter of the  
Superior Optimist Club

**March  
2011**

Letter from the President



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

Greetings,

There has been a lot of activity with our members: Welcome back to Chris Jarman, as he has rejoined the club; congratulations to Dick Keskinen on the arrival of his very first great-granddaughter, and to Margaret Ciccone on the arrival of her grandson. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Gene Chuzles and his family following Gene's recent heart attack. We are all hoping for good news and a speedy recovery.

Our next "New Member Focus" meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Duluth Noon Optimist Club will be coming to visit our club on March 23<sup>rd</sup> – please make every effort to attend these meetings.

Our annual meatball dinner will be held Wednesday **April 27 at Cathedral** in Kress Hall. (Be sure to note the new location!) The meatball dinner is one of our primary fundraisers and **we need your help!!** Tickets and posters are now available, and can be picked up at any of our regular meetings. Tickets also will be mailed as needed, and we strongly encourage each member to sell a minimum of ten tickets.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Optimism,

Kim



**Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of February**

Sarah Nestrud & Spencer Davis

Sarah Nestrud and Spencer Davis, both juniors at Superior High School, were selected as the Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of February.

Sarah is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS concert band and cross country. She is active with 4-H and the Girl Scouts and volunteers as a reading mentor, math league assistant, and at Christ Lutheran Church as an usher. Sarah plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Superior to pursue an education in biology and chemistry with a focus on molecular/medical biology. She is the daughter of Lori and Kevin Nestrud.

Spencer participates in track, cross country, and Skills USA at SHS. He is a member of the Boy Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club, and is active with the Junior Ski Patrol. He volunteers at the annual Haunted Ship and at Essentia Health. Spencer plans to attend either the University of Minnesota-Duluth or film school after high

March, that dreaded last month of winter. I've never been a fan of March. By March, here in the North, we are worn out by Old Man Winter and March usually holds the last assaults with a few good, heavy, wet snows and an ice storm or two. But March also holds the promise of Spring, longer days of warmer temperatures, sunshine and blue skies, melting snow and the springing up of new life.

Here are a few interesting facts about Spring. It really is just around the corner!

**Spring** is one of the four seasons of temperate zones. Astronomically, it begins with the spring equinox (around March 21<sup>st</sup> in the Northern hemisphere, and September 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Southern hemisphere), and ends with the summer solstice (around June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Northern hemisphere and December 21<sup>st</sup> in the Southern hemisphere). Frequently, it is instead counted instead as the whole months of March, April, and May in the Northern hemisphere and September, October, and November in the Southern hemisphere, especially by meteorologists, and generally by the public.

As in summer, the axial tilt of the Earth is toward the Sun, and daylight hours are greater than or equal to 12 hours. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to spring forth, giving the season its name. Snow (if any) begins to melt, and rivers and streams swell with runoff and spring rains. Most flowering plants bloom this time of year, in a long succession beginning even when snow is still on the ground, and continuing into early summer. In normally snowless areas, "spring" may begin as early as February during warmer years, with subtropical areas having very subtle differences, and tropical ones none at all. Subarctic areas may not see "spring" at all until May or even June, or December in the outer Antarctic.

Severe weather most often occurs during the spring, when warm air begins to invade from lower latitudes while cold air is still pushing from the polar regions. Flooding is also most common in and near mountainous areas during this time of year due to snowmelt, many times accelerated by warm rains. In the U.S, Tornado Alley is most active by far this time of year, especially since the Rocky Mountains prevent the surging hot and cold air masses from spreading westward and instead force them directly at each other. Besides tornados, supercell thunderstorms can also produce dangerously large hail and very high winds, for which a severe thunderstorm warning or even tornado warning is usually issued. Often, spring storms trigger dozens of warnings, one right after the other, often simultaneously along a line hundreds of miles or kilometers long. Even more so than winter, the jet streams play an important role in severe weather in the springtime.

Some of the worst blizzards have occurred in the spring. including the Great Blizzard of 1993, which brought hurricane conditions and then light snow to northern Florida on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and deposited up to five feet or 1.5 meters of snow in parts of the Appalachian Mountains. A massive springtime "upslope" winter storm in 2003 brought up to eleven feet or 3.3 meters of snow to parts of Colorado and three feet or 90cm to Denver, which gets more snow in March and April (and again in October and November) than during the entire winter (December to February).

Hurricane season also begins in late spring, on May 15<sup>th</sup> in the northeastern Pacific and June 1<sup>st</sup> in the northern Atlantic. Prior to these dates, hurricanes are almost unheard of and even tropical storms are exceedingly rare, one of the earliest ever being Tropical Storm Ana in mid-April 2003.

**Winners/Losers February 2011**

**2/02** FREE MEAL: Kaye Tenerelli, *Lost*  
**2/09** FREE MEAL: Steve Koszarek, *Lost*  
**2/16** FREE MEAL: Dave Lemaster, *Won*  
**2/23** FREE MEAL: Bruce Thompson, *Won*

**JACKPOT:** Rick Rockwood, *Lost*  
**JACKPOT:** Karry Johnson, *Won (\$14)*  
**JACKPOT:** Charlie Place, *Lost*  
**JACKPOT:** Frank Germann, *Lost*

**ATTENDANCE:** Anita King, *Won*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Rick Rockwood, *Won*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Don Berg, *Won*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Gene Chuzles, *Won*

**PROGRAMS for March**



**March 2nd**

Chris Watton  
Topic - Bees

**March 9th**

Grace Gee, Registered Dietitian, Nutrition Education  
Program Coordinator for UW Extension,  
Topic - Initiative for Healthier Douglas County

**March 16th**

Sue Hendrickson, Literacy Council

**March 23rd**

Sara Blanck, Executive Director Superior Public Museums  
Update on Fairlawn, Whaleback & Fire Museums

**March 30th**

Jane Anakin, Ag Agent UW Extension  
Community Gardening

***Happy Birthday!***

**March Birthdays**

William Eckman  
3/18



*Happy Birthday !*

**Optimist Anniversaries**

*Mark Thompson*  
1977 (34 years)



*William Downs III*  
1981 (30 years)

*Kim Culp*  
1994 (17 years)

**Program Chairman - Margaret Ciccone**

**Prize Sponsor - Roger Bare**

**Keep in your  
Thoughts/Prayers**

Gene Chuzles



**Have you ever wondered...**



- \*If a 911 operator has a heart attack, whom does he/she call?
- \*Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?
- \*Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet soup?
- \*Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out!"
- \*Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- \*When your photo is taken for your driver's license, why do they tell you to smile? If you are stopped by the police and asked for your license, are you going to be smiling?
- \*If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?
- \*Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
- \*If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- \*Why do people point to their wrist when asking for the time, but don't point to their crotch when they ask where the bathroom is?
- \*Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

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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.

Happy  
St. Patrick's Day



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