



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

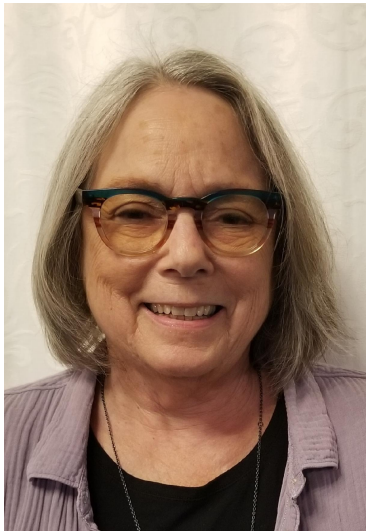
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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

April 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings:

My thoughts this month take me to how much we share of ourselves in our involvement in the Twin City Area Optimist Club. This is evidenced in part by the chatter at the tables when the meetings begin; everyone has so much to share with one another. We rejoice with Megan and Tabitha in the impending birth of their babies. How wonderful to be able to share in their joy. We pray for the health of our members and their families as they share their personal health struggles. We come to the aid of our member when an almost devastating fire interrupts the peacefulness of her home. We share our travel adventures and the successes of our children and grandchildren. We do all this while continuing, almost weekly, to support the youth of our community, the underserved or the needy. I know Pat Sweet's and Judy Kuhlman's cars will be filled with clothing for the women's shelter. I also know we will applaud the outstanding youth of Jefferson County who are being presented at our Youth Appreciation meeting. From these youth, we get a glimpse of our leaders for the future!

In the months to come, our projects will grow and we will meet our club's mission through our efforts and caring relationships as a friend of youth. Let's continue to give so much time to the improvement of ourselves and others.

Carroll

March 30, 2023
Historic Tanglefoot Association
Speakers Dara Riney and Michelle Hohmeier



Dara Riney and Michelle Hohmeier

The Historic Tanglefoot Association is a 501C(3) non-profit organization, consisting of both citizens and business-powers, formed to shape the future of Festus and Crystal City Main Streets and to celebrate the diverse history of the area. The group takes the title "Tanglefoot" from the pre-1887 name for the unincorporated city of Festus, Missouri.

Thanks to Dara Riney and Michelle Hohmeier for introducing our club to this organization and updating us on plans for future improvements to the area.

For more information on this organization please visit: [\(20+\) Historic Tanglefoot Association | Facebook](#)
There is a great history about the name Tanglefoot.

April 5, 2023
Optimist Club of St. Louis Grant Check Presentation



President Carroll Metzger along with Phyllis Neff and Jean Naeger attended the Optimist Club of St. Louis Grant Check Presentation on April 5, 2023. Carroll accepted a \$5000 check from St. Louis Club President Jennifer Bagwell. Carroll expressed the club's gratitude in receiving this grant to fund our annual dictionary project. She also said how excited the smiling third graders are when they receive their very own dictionary.



Photo OP

During April 6th meeting, President Carroll Metzger called up Jean Naeger, Grant Chair and Laura Elbl, Dictionary Chair to show off the BIG check. Laura was handed the real check to deposit!

April 6, 2023 Passover/Easter/Spring Party

Thank you, party committee. Everything was perfect down to the favors.

Passover

Carroll Metzger shared information about the Jewish holiday of Passover. Her Seder plate is a ceremonial plate that goes on the



table for the Passover meal and service. It serves as a visual reminder of the symbols of Passover which each have a place on the plate. Seder plates can be made of any material and can be simple or more ornate. This plate also has the order of the ceremonial service and the 10 plagues of Egypt in pictures in English and Hebrew. This plate was made in England by Grindley, Royal Cauldron in the 1950's.

Easter



Jolene Blecha (aka the Easter Bunny) with Beth Vreeland are all dressed up and ready to party.

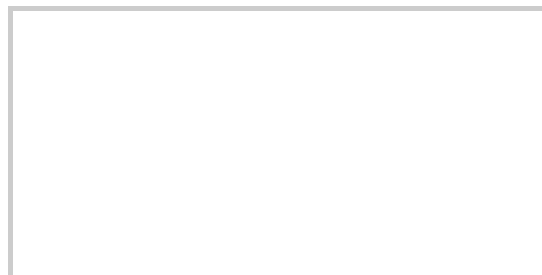
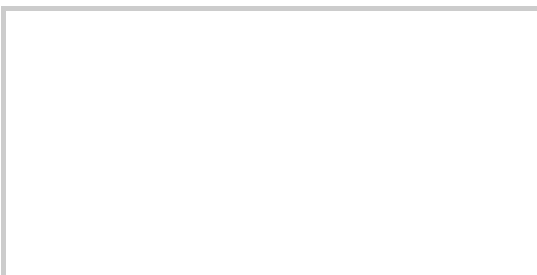


Of course no Optimist event is complete without cake! Members enjoyed individual carrot cakes.



Selfie photo of Patty Meyer, Jolene Blecha, and Cathy Elliott

MORE HATS!





Cheyenne Pratt and Judy Williams



Janice Boyd



The Easter Parade

Lisa Ermer, Janice Boyd, Carroll Metzger, Joline Blecha (Easter Bunny), Judy Williams, Dorothea Kehm, Dana Hanna, Nicki Russell, Cheyenne Pratt, and Beth Vreeland



Winners of "Pass the Egg" game
 Caryl Harness, Nicki Russell, Barb Bates, Donna Long, Shirley Coile, and Kathy Todd

April 13, 2023 NOW Meeting

Thanks to NOW Chair Marsha Greenstreet for coordinating event. Marsha wasn't able to join us, but prepared President Carroll Metzger well. The program included spelling out OPTIMISTS with members talking about our projects and service to the community. Barb Schmidt provided a slide show to coordinate with the speakers, showing many of our activities.

NOW MEETING
 (New Optimist Welcome)
April 13, 2023

During our regularly scheduled noon meeting

To invite a guest, notify Marsha Greenstreet
 by April 5, 2022 at mgreenstreet@sbcglobal.net
 Provide the following information for each guest:



NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS



Guest Terry Steighorst (invited by Amy Baum who was unable to attend meeting). Guest Sara Plew invited by Jean Naeger.



Guest Beth Haberer invited by Janet Mace



Carol Schanz invited guest Katie Haseltine

April 16, 2023 Tea Party.
There are so many photos to share, please look for special Tea Party Edition. A great time was had by all!



April 20, 2023 Youth Appreciation
Chair Cathy Elliott

You're awesome



Congratulations to all students.

Special thanks to Youth Appreciation Chair Cathy Elliott for planning this annual event honoring local youth from southern Jefferson County schools. In addition, thanks to Barb Schmidt for introducing the program and the members who assisted with decorating, introducing students, and cutting the cake.

Students were recognized for upholding the dignity of youth, for showing sincere devotion to the welfare of others, and for generous and unselfish contributions to society. Each student received a framed award certificate and a \$50 cash gift.



MaKenna Jones
Crystal City High School
with Cathy Elliott and
Patty Meyer



Martin Drennen
DeSoto High School with
Cathy Elliott and
Martha DeMent



Ava Leftwich
Festus High School with
Cathy Elliott and Donna Long



Isaiah Kutrip
DeSoto High School with
Cathy Elliott and Gerty
O'Leary



Arihanna Heitert
Hillsboro High School with
Cathy Elliott and Phyllis Neff

CJ Asinger
Herculaneum High School with
Cathy Elliott and
Mary Kay Scott



Kristen Hopkins
Jefferson R7 High School with
Cathy Elliott and Pat Doenges

Sophia Meyer
St. Pius X High School with
Cathy Elliott and
Ruth Adams Adams

Jayden Heck
Twin City Christian Academy
with Cathy Elliott and
Mary Hatfield



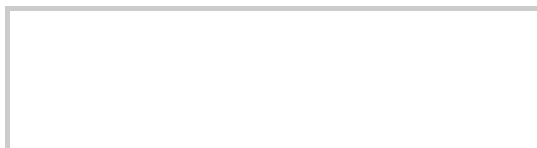
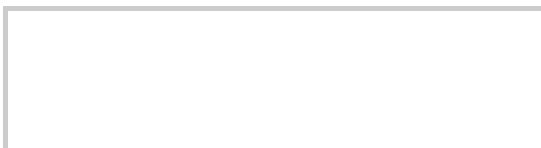
Cake cutters: Kirstie Zych,
Becky Francis, Dana Hanna,
and Debbie Hogenmiller

CLUB PROJECTS

Head Start Easter Food Drive

Thanks to Project Chair Pam Cernik for collecting all donations, organizing our shoppers, and working with Head Start staff. Many members contributed food, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. Members also shopped for fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and staples. Grocery shopping was paid for with club funds, donations, and a \$1000 grant received from Optimist International Foundation.

In addition, Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych shopped for gifts, treats, and gift cards to fill Easter baskets for the children; members helped wrap baskets. A total of seven families were served including 15 adults and 16 children, ranging in age from two months to 15 years.



Head Start - Easter Baskets and Food Supply

Please bring to weekly meetings
 March 9-16-23-30. 5 like items
 donations are accepted.
 Project Chair: Pam Cernik 314-709-0491

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| PERSONAL CARE ITEMS | HOUSEHOLD ITEMS |
| HAND SOAP | DISH SOAP |
| BODY WASH | LAUNDRY SOAP |
| NO TEARS SHAMPOO | FABRIC SOFTENER |
| SHAMPOO | SPONGES |
| CONDITIONER | DISH TOWELS |
| LIQUID HAND SOAP | CLEANING PRODUCTS |
| RAZORS | TOILET PAPER |
| TOOTHBRUSH AND TOOTH PASTE | |

- FOOD ITEMS**
- CANNED VEGETABLES
 - CANNED SOUP
 - CANNED FRUIT
 - CANNED CHILI
 - BEANS: CANNED OR DRY
 - CEREAL/OATMEAL
 - CANNED TUNA/CHICKEN
 - PEANUT BUTTER
 - APPLESAUCE
 - MAC AND CHEESE
 - SALT AND PEPPER
 - PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE
 - STAPLES: FLOUR, SUGAR



List of items requested from members.



Shirley Coile sorting donations



Carol Schanz and Debbie Kettler --- show me the dough!



Debbie Hogenmiller and Pam Cernik



Just a fraction of the items collected.



Shoppers: Donna Long, Judy Kuhlman, Debbie Kettler, Barb Bates, Judy Williams, Kirstie Zych





Shoppers: Judy Williams, Carol Schanz, Kirstie Zych, Beth Payton

Diapers for the little ones



Head Start staff picking up donations.

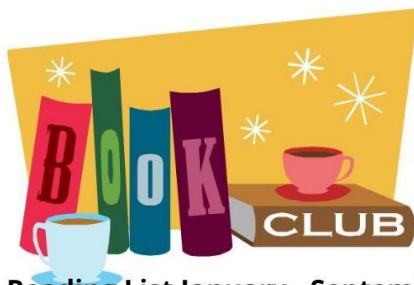


TCA Members arrived at the March 30th evening meeting ready to assemble Easter baskets for Head Start children. Local Head Start staff selected the families with the greatest need. Our club only learns the number of adults and children in each family and the ages of children to assist with shopping.

Pictured: Debbie Hogenmiller, Kirstie Zych, Donna Long, Dana Hanna, and Pam Cernik

Book Club

Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. Make note, we will meet the second Thursday of each month immediately following our noon meeting. We will discuss the previous month's book.



Reading List January - September 2023

January - *One More River to Cross* by Jane Kirkpatrick
February - *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham
March - *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult
April - *Unbroken* by Laura Hildebrand
May - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult
June - *The Cabinet of Curiosities* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child
July - *The Whole Town is Talking* by Fannie Flagg
August - *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett
September - *Dandelion Summer* by Lisa Wingate
Book Club will meet after our club meetings at 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.

JOI Club

No update submitted

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



FUNDRAISERS

Scratch Off Ticket Raffle

Thanks to Beth Watts for chairing this fundraiser. We appreciate everyone who either donated tickets or purchased chances.

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Ellen Bridgewater was the lucky winner.

Strike It Rich!
Been looking for your pot of gold?
Face value: \$300

Scratch Off Lottery Tickets Raffle
 Drawing Thursday March 30, 2023

One entry for every \$10 donation:
 Venmo @TC-Optimist 2122 or
 check to TCA Optimist Club,
 P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028
 (include your name and phone number)

Benefits TCA Optimist Youth/Community Projects

Net profit \$1010



Dining Out



Twin City Area Optimist Club

20% of event sales will be donated
 TCA Optimist Club is a volunteer organization serving the youth of southern Jefferson County.



When
 Monday, April 03, 2023
 Time: 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM

Where
 Panda Express located at:
 612 S. Truman Blvd, Festus MO 63028
 (636) 937 - 2777



Online
 PandaExpress.com or the App.
 Enter 351768 in the fundraiser code box



In Person
 Bring paper flyer or show it on your smartphone

Order ahead or on the event day Monday, April 03, 2023



Health and Safety

Committed to your health and safety, Panda Express is recognized as **America's safest restaurant brand.**

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed. Panda Restaurant Group will donate 20% of all purchases made, pre-tax and before fees, at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location when purchased with your unique code or check-out or when a copy of this flyer is presented. Purchases of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible.

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Panda Express

Another dining out fundraiser is wrapped up just like the spring rolls at Panda Express.

Thanks to our dining out chair Kathy Todd and a few members who helped pass out fliers.

Profit \$373.81

SAVE THE DATES

GAME NIGHT

THUR. APRIL 27

Dinner 5:30 pm

Meeting 6:00 pm

Pass it to the left
Pass it to the right
Oh no, drop it in the center

Game Night
Evening meeting, April 27th

Learn to play LEFT-RIGHT-CENTER, a fun fast-paced dice game. No skill required; a little bit of luck would be nice. If that is the case Judy Kuhlman will be a winner.

Taco salad/tea/water will be available for \$15. Watch your email and Facebook for meeting/dinner reservations. NO OUTSIDE FOOD.

Any questions about this game night, please contact Kathy Todd our program chair for this meeting.



Note upcoming events. To assist with projects, please contact Committee Chair.

- April 27: Game Night - Chair Kathy Todd
- May 3: Board Meeting - Poppy's
- May 5-6: EMO District Third Quarter Conference - STL Airport Hilton
- May 11: Happy Birthday TCA Optimist Club --35 years
- May 18: Book and Puzzle Exchange (info to follow)
- May 20: Hillsboro Homecoming Festival (club participation) Chair Mary Hatfield

Board of Directors
2022-2023

President
Carroll Metzger
910-264-6852

President Elect
Peggy Scott

Past President
Gerty O'Leary



Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Cathy Elliott.

The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.

Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.

Our VENMO account, **@TC-Optimist 2122**, can be used to make donations to our projects or fundraisers.

Please make sure to include your phone number and a memo indicating what the donation is for.

Secretary
Debbie Hogenmiller

Secretary Elect
Ruth Ann Adams

Treasurer
Laura Elbl

Treasurer Elect
Janet Mace

Board Members

2021-2023
Pam Cernik
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams

2022-2024
Cathy Elliott
Katie Huck
Patty Meyer

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visit our website.



[Visit our website](#)

Twin City Area Optimist Club | P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028

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