



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

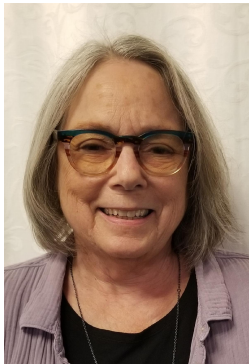
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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## January 2023 News Making a Difference For the Kids

### Message From President Carroll Metzger



“This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action,” said Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial. These words are as true today as they were then. They prompt us to think about what we are doing as a club to address the concerns of our community and those who are in need or are underserved. What are we doing as a club to keep ourselves motivated? Weekly meetings, speakers, member sharing, BUNCO (January 20), etc. keep us informed and interested. Service to our community is provided through upcoming activities, including the collection of items for Brenden’s Friday Backpacks and purchases for the Aunt Rose Project. A new project involves the collection of clothes and household items for

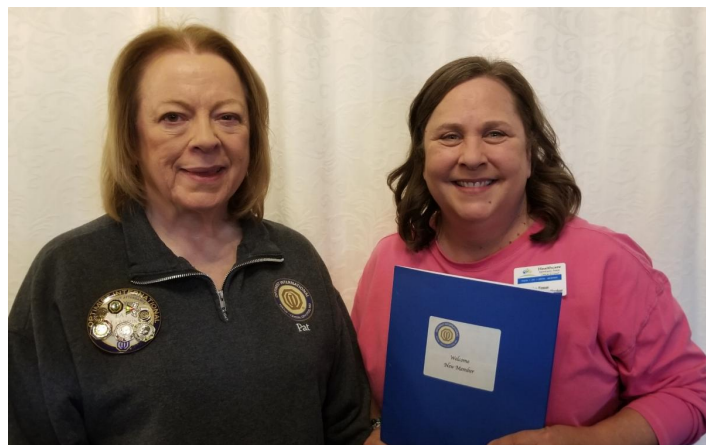
the domestic violence program at A Safe Place. Raising funds to continue our service projects is an important part of working with the community. By supporting dining-out evenings, the sponsorship program, and upcoming raffles, we help to contribute to our community.

I appreciate each of you for your contribution and I hope you feel as rewarded as I do.

Carroll

### Welcome New Members

New member Lisa Ermer was inducted into the TCA Optimist Club on January 2, pictured with her sponsor Pat Parsons.





Jolene Blecha was inducted as a new member on January 19. She is pictured with her sponsor Ruth Ann Adams.

## December 29, 2022 Murder at the Manor



A huge thank you to Jennifer Jones for organizing this fun Murder Mystery social. Who did it you ask? It could have been anyone of these suspicious women. Who would gain from the Lord of the Manor's death?

IT'S A PARTY TO DIE FOR

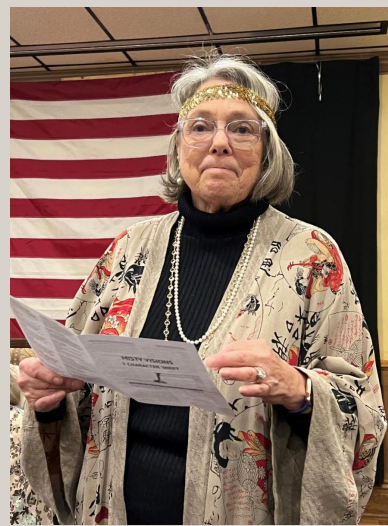
# Murder at the Manor

Dinner \$15

DECEMBER 29, 2022  
DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.  
POPPY'S PARLOR

RSVP if you dare to  
Cathy Elliott by noon on  
Tuesday December 27

Come dressed for a dinner party at the  
Manor Mansion set in the 1920's.  
Play a part or help solve the mystery.







Could it be Misty Visions? She knows all, sees all! (Carroll Metzger)



How about the cook, Blanche Batters? She had sticky fingers and loved shiny things. Did she fear the Lord would turn her into the police? (Jean Naeger)

Dee Minor played in the orchestra, but she lost her violin, could it be the murder weapon? (Katie Huck)



Siera Tango was a police officer, but was she on the right side of the law? (Laura Lohman)

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Could it be Mrs. Withering. She loved him so but she was only a servant. (Ruth Ann Adams)

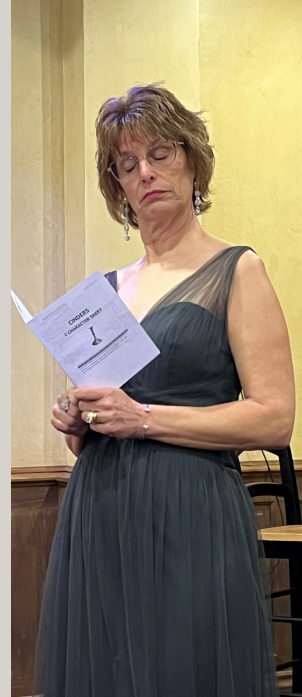
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The wife, Em Fatale is high on the list of suspects, but she had nothing to gain from the Lord's death. She married the old coot for love, and she signed a pre-nup. (Patty Meyer)

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Cinders, dresses as a maid, but is she in disguise? The illegitimate daughter of the Lord. Does she want her father dead? Yes, Cinders is the murderer. (Karen Huskey)

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The Cast



## Dressing for the Occasion

Standing: Laura Lohman, Shirley Coile, Jean Naeger, Ruth Ann Adams, Patty Meyer, Katie Huck, Beth Winkeler, Mickie Huskey, and Jennifer Jones.

Seated: Karen Huskey, Sharon Davis, and Carroll Metzger.

## January 5, 2023 Board Meeting Review

### Highlights from Board Meeting

- Three new Optimist members were approved. Welcome Lisa Ermer, Jolene Blecha, and Allie Kister.
- A Health and Wellness Grant application was submitted to Optimist International Foundation. If this matching grant is approved, it will go to our Head Start Easter Food Drive, allowing more families to be served.
- Sponsorship letters scheduled for mailing early January.
- Donations to Aunt Rose Project will be ordered from budgeted funds.
- Dining out fundraisers continue, hopefully one will be scheduled each month.
- Brenden's Friday Backpack food drive scheduled for February.

## January 12, 2023 Jefferson County Sheriff's Office: Common Fraud Speaker Detective Ryan Weston





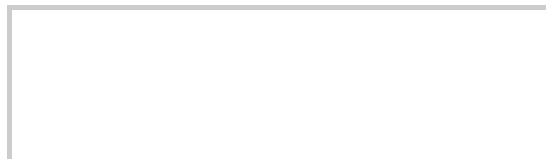
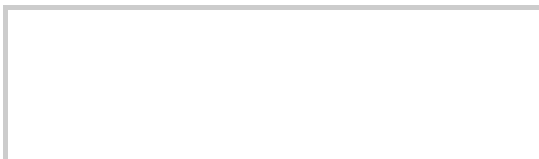
Detective Ryan Weston was our guest speaker for the January 12, 2023 meeting. Detective Weston talked about the various types of fraud citizens of Jefferson County should be aware. Most common frauds are telephone and internet scams which may request your personal information. This can enable the criminal to access bank or credit card accounts.

Lonely older adults may be victims of internet chatting. Once a relationship is established the criminal will ask for money to help with an emergency or travel money to come visit. Be cautious, the IRS never calls demanding money, or that you will go to jail. Never purchase gift cards and then provide the gift card number to the criminal. Bottom line NEVER give out your personal information, including social security number to anyone.

## January 19, 2023 Team Building: Show and Tell



Special thanks to Program Chair Amy Baum for pulling off another fun program. Members got to know a little more about eight of our members, from our #001 Marsha Greenstreet to new member Lisa Ermer.





TilePix are unique frames with "Stick-n-Slide" magnetic hanging system that lets you easily mount and reposition frames without removing the adhesive wall patch or damaging your walls. This is a display in my new home.

Patty Meyer



The Faberge egg was brought back from St. Petersburg, Russia before COVID and the war. I was so happy to see Catherine the Great's summer palace and bring back this stunning lapis egg to remember our trip.

Barb Schmidt



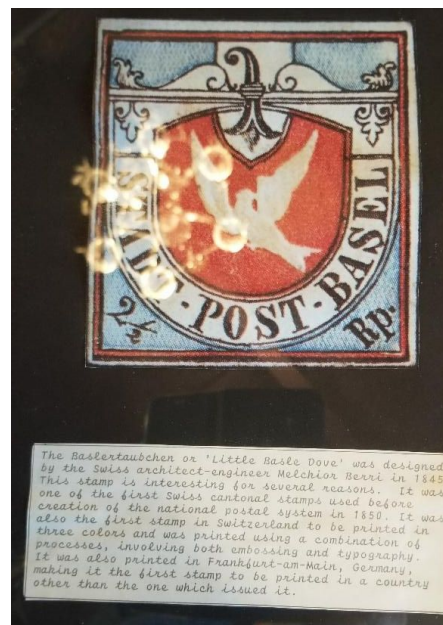
Quilting, counted cross stitch, basket weaving, you name a craft and I've probably tried it. When I retire many years ago, I took up China painting.



When I was a child, my mom had a bank called MOO - LAH. It had a statue of a cow made of thick cardboard, that had deteriorated after 60+ years. It was inside a 6 inch round clear glass globe with a coin opening in the top. The cow had a money meter, which was actually a line drawn across the back measuring the money value according to the coins filling to the line. My sisters and I would put a note, saying how much and our initials with each deposit and then before Christmas, Mom would open the bank and divide up each of our savings.

Also, as a child, any vacation we took was always to visit family in Kentucky but one time we stopped at Lincoln's birthplace, and I got a log cabin bank souvenir. It was made of metal and still has coins in it today, including two steel pennies from 1943.

Phyllis Neff



He's an ancestor, like a great great something (haha). His name was Melchior Berri and he was an architect. He designed some beautiful

During COVID pandemic I started changing the decorations monthly around my front door. It gave me something to do while stuck at home and gave the neighbors something new to see during their walks. At the time I posted a few photos on Facebook, now I have friends eagerly awaiting what will appear next!

Jean Naeger

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The fall of 1977 our high school (West Memphis AR) marching band football halftime show was a tribute to Elvis Presley (in his passing) so we formed a man playing a guitar and we played "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog" while making his leg shake. Elvis' father Vernon was there to see it.

Cindy Cherry

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While learning of her metastatic lung cancer diagnosis she had a deep desire to hang on to meet her first great grandchild. Today we viewed a sweet video of her first great grand daughter Alex (age 3) singing "You are My Sunshine" to her new baby sister Marcy.

Marsha Greenstreet

churches in Basel Switzerland and also designed the first tri color postage stamp for Europe.

Lisa Ermer

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Evidence of my adiction to Shutterfly. Since 2009 I've made 40 photo books (travel, family faces, guest books), luggage tags, coffee mugs, children's memory games, wall canvases, and various print objects for myself, family, and friends. I've been asked by my son and daughter-in-law to put their wedding album together! I love the designing of life's moments into items of use and enjoyment.

Karen Huskey

**January 26, 2023  
Evening Meeting  
(Refer to flyer below for upcoming meeting--photos of  
swap meet to come in February newsletter)**



TWIN CITY OPTIMIST CLUB

## YOU'RE INVITED TO HOME DECOR SWAP MEET



Bring a home decor item that  
you love but are ready for  
someone else to love!

RSVP required to  
Cathy Elliott  
5:30 p.m. Dinner (optional)  
6:00 p.m. Program  
\$15/Taco Salad

Jennifer Jones  
Program Chair

Here is what you need to do to participate:  
Bring a home decor item that you are ready to part with and  
are certain that someone else will love as much as you have!  
So, a wall hanging, a basket of flowers, a lamp, a painting or  
portrait or any other home decor item you can think of.  
We will have tables set up as you come in to set your swap  
item on and you will receive a "shopping" number.  
We will call out numbers and each person will have the  
chance to pick out a "new to them" home decor item.  
It is ok if you bring an extra item in case someone forgets!  
We will pick until all items are gone

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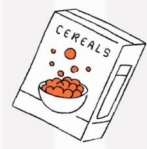
## CLUB PROJECTS

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**Brenden's Friday Backpacks**  
**Bring Items to any February Meeting**



# Twin City Area Optimist Club Food Drive Benefiting Brenden's Friday Backpacks



In cooperation with:



**HELP FEED KIDS OVER THE WEEKEND**

**FEB. 1-28, 2023** **DROP OFF FOOD AT TAYTROS**  
331 NORTH CREEK DR., FESTUS, MO

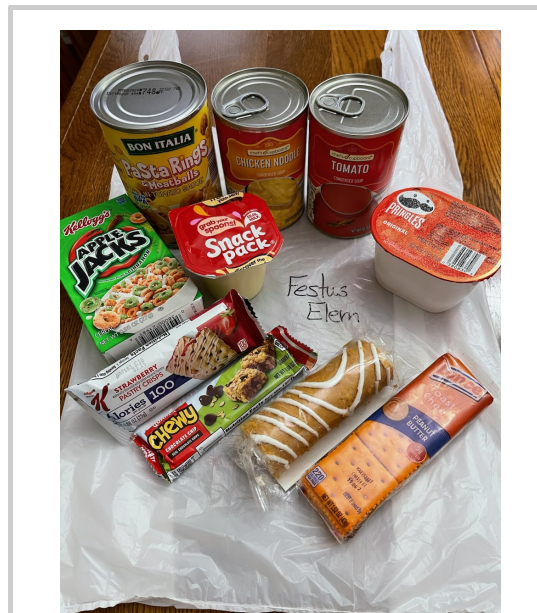
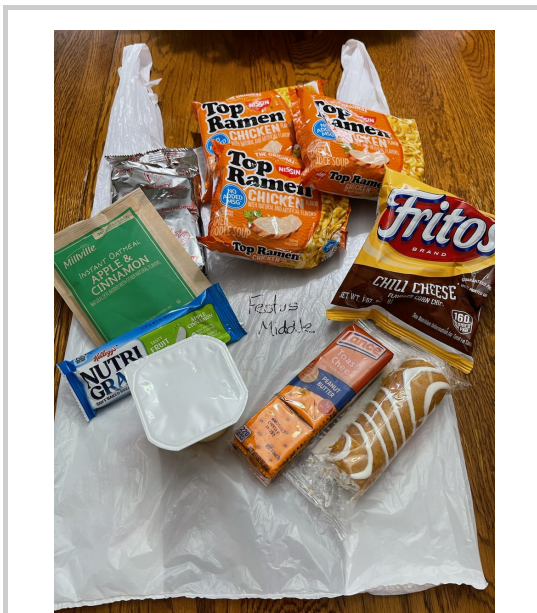
- we use single-serve, non-perishable, kid-friendly foods
  - single-serve cereal
  - breakfast or granola bars
  - canned soup and pasta
    - ramen noodles
  - pudding and fruit cups
- individual snacks such as crackers, cookies, chips, Rice Krispie treats, trail mix, etc.
- 16-18 oz plastic jars of peanut butter for long breaks

**PLEASE NOTE: BRENDEN'S FRIDAY BACKPACKS IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF BREAKFAST BARS AND SNACKS.** This program serves 1500 students each week from 60 schools in Jefferson and Northern St. Francois Counties.

Contact Project Co-Chairs Debbie Hogenmiller or Kirstie Zych if you have questions.

You may bring items to any February meeting. Debbie or Kirstie will collect your donations in parking lots from 11:15-11:45 a.m. before noon meetings and 4:45-5:15 p.m. before evening meeting.

Please share that Taytros will also help with collections. A bin will be placed in the entry for community donations. Please tell your friends.





## Aunt Rose Project



Thanks to the efforts of our members and the hard work they put into fundraising, our club is able to purchase tampons, sanitary pads, etc. to reduce period poverty for foster care girls in Jefferson County.

Recently the club purchased approximately \$800 of products for donation to the Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund.

Our club is proud to be Aunties for the Aunt Rose Project.

## A Safe Place



There will be a collection in February for items for the baby room at A Safe Place. More information to come on dates, in the meantime, below is a list of needed items. You might check if you

- Diapers - all sizes but especially size 4 and 5, these are not donated often.
- Bottles
- Wipes
- Pacifiers
- Baby shampoo and lotion
- Teething rings
- Baby rattles/toys
- Baby socks
- Onesies (may be clean/gently used) both genders
- Baby nail clippers
- Nose suction
- Grooming items

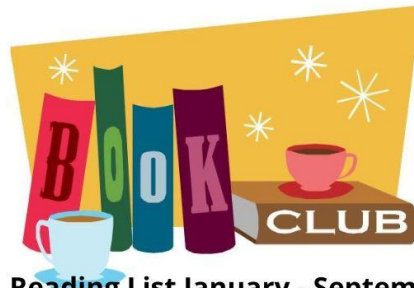
Of special note: We appreciate everything the Optimist Club does for us, please tell everyone we said thank you.

Holly Porter, MA  
Director, A Safe Place

## 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.**

## Essay Contest

A red poster for the Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest. The text reads: "Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest". Below this, it says "Essays must be postmarked by January 31, 2023". There are two logos: one on the left showing a keyboard and a pen, and one on the right which is the Optimist International logo with the text "OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL EST. 1908 - CRYSTAL CITY (IOWA)".

Visit our website to learn more about 2023 Essay Contest [Essay Contest \(twincityoptimist.org\)](https://twincityoptimist.org)  
Essay Chair: Mary Kay Scott and Co-Chair Debbie Hogenmiller

Oratorical information and application are available on our website. [Oratorical Contest \(twincityoptimist.org\)](https://twincityoptimist.org)

Oratorical Chairs: Mary Kay Scott and Phyllis Neff

A purple poster for the Twin City Area Optimist Oratorical Contest. The text reads: "Twin City Area Optimist Oratorical Contest". Below this, it says "Deadline to apply February 27, 2023". Further down, it says "Local contest will be held March 20, 2023 (time/place TBD)". There are two logos: one on the top left which is the Optimist International logo, and one on the bottom right showing a globe and a podium, with the text "OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS".

## JOI Club

No meeting in January.



Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz  
JOI Chair



## FUNDRAISERS

### Dining Out



1267 N. Truman Blvd, Crystal City  
636-543-3296

Dining Out for a Cause  
Benefits Twin City Area Optimist Club



Supporting youth of  
Southern Jefferson County

**10TH JANUARY**

5-8 PM NO FLYER NEEDED  
10% OF TOTAL RECEIPTS DONATED  
Dine in only

Donation Box will be available

#### Dining Out

The January dining out fundraiser earned \$170 from Kettelhut's Smokehouse.

Thanks to Project Chair Kathy Todd. Next month's dining out experience will be at Pasta House.



ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

1606 GALEMORE, FESTUS  
(636) 725 0300



TUES. FEB. 7, 2023

Dining Out for a Cause Benefits  
Twin City Area Optimist Club

Supporting Youth in  
Southern Jefferson County

10% OF SALES DONATED  
(all day)

MUST SHOW OR MENTION THIS FLYER

Dine in or carry out

DONATION BOX AVAILABLE

# SAVE THE DATES



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

- January 20 - BUNCO -Chair Carol Schanz
- January 26 - Evening meeting - Swap Meet, Chair Jennifer
- February 1-28 Brenden's Friday Backpack Food Drive
- February 2 - Optimist Day -- wear your logo shirt
- February 9 - Valentine's Day Party
- February 24-25 EMO District Meeting--BE THERE!



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.

## Board of Directors 2022-2023

**President**  
Carroll Metzger  
910-264-6852

**President Elect**  
Peggy Scott

**Past President**  
Gerty O'Leary

**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



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

Katie Huck  
Patty Meyer

Keep current with club activities,  
like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



Visit our website

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

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