



# The SOC-KET

Bringing  
Out  
The Best  
In  
Children

The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem  
Volume 60 Issue 24 April 16, 2009  
Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at Willson House  
( check out our website at [www.optimistclubofsalemor.org](http://www.optimistclubofsalemor.org) )

## 2007-08 Club Officers

President:	John Chamberlain
President-Designate	TBA
Immediate Past-President	Bruce Gilbertson
Secretary/Treasurer:	Arlen Hollinshead
Directors:	John Day, Paul Negstad, Frank Masser, Dave Sevall, Vern Tabery, Dave Wiley



The first of this day's honorees is Maria Hernandez Carrasco and her story is most unique. When she started at South Salem High School it was a struggle for her. In fact, for a time she returned to Mexico before making the decision to return, and now this recognition is one of her rewards for having made that decision. She

intends to go on to Chemeketa CC and perhaps extend her career in the field of nursing. In this we wish her much success.

Number two on our list of today's honorees is Joe Cripe of West Salem High, and just as most of these young people, high school was a difficult adjustment, but one he was able to overcome, now earning A's and B's. An athlete as well, he now is heading for the Marine Corps, and his future plans include the challenge of engineering, but we're confident he will succeed at that as well as the challenges already mastered.



Our third honoree is Yui Aoki, from Western Menonite. Now, if anyone was faced with obstacles to overcome, it was this young lady. Overcoming a language barrier is no easy task, but she gradually became more and more confident until reaching an acceptable

comfort level. Now, in addition to her scholastic achievements, she does some exceptional artwork. Her future plans include Western Oregon University.

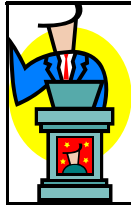
The fourth honoree is Katy Isiordia from Gervais High School. Her story is very much like others who have strived to overcome obstacles that have been cast before them. According to the faculty representative, not only has Katy met her challenges, but has taken on additional responsibilities, such as a blood drive. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that she will succeed in whatever challenges lie ahead of her.



This final picture is just so each has a record of just who it was that stood alongside as he or she received much deserved recognition. All credit is due for having achieved something that may once have seemed but a dream.



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to prepare a letter that states why I am an Optimist. Number one, I was not always a joiner. My approach to Optimism began when two Optimists (Dale Powell and a pharmacist by the name of Fred Russon) invited me to a meeting, and subsequently to one of their extra curricular activities. While somewhat reluctant to become involved in the club, I found myself attending one thing and another, and interest began to grow. One of the club's activities at that time was something called the Junior Optimist Rifle Club. Since I had served some time in the military (1940's), teaching youngsters the proper use of firearms seemed a natural thing to do. Also, at that time we had our own rifles, jackets, and the ammunition supplied by the military. We met once a week at the National Guard Armory. What gave me some satisfaction at that time was coaching a particular youngster on proper breathing, sighting, and trigger squeezing, then watching as he made the target look like Swiss cheese. All of a sudden, as I was watching the target through a scope, he hit dead center. I shouted "bullseye!", and I will never forget the look on his face when he turned around with the broadest grin. From that point on his accuracy was something to behold. That incident was as satisfying to me as it was to him.

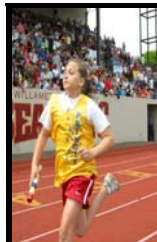
The next instance that helped me decide on staying with the Optimist Club was an Oratorical Contest, and the District Contest finals were held at Beaverton.

(cont'd on page 2)



April 23 Jeff Dunleavy  
YMCA  
April 30 TBA

## SALEM KIDS' RELAY RACES

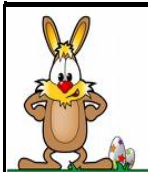


The young lady pictured here is certainly an inspiration. Youngsters like her will be participants at this year's event. Have you thought of someone who might like to help with this program? If you have, don't put the question off any longer. Remember, the date is May 9th, and it is now the month of April. That person or

persons, as the case may be, needs to have a background check and that may take some time also



The Awesome 3000 event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, just one week ahead of the Salem Relay Races. Fortunately, like the relays, the Optimist Club is only one of several organizations that participate, and it is fun event for the kids. This does not mean that your help isn't needed, and the t-shirts are still there for volunteers.



By recruiting one from Issaquah, nine bunnies showed up Saturday, hopping around the grounds of Morningside, staking out hunt areas, "hiding" eggs, then getting out of the way when the horn sounded!! About 100 kids dispersed into the woods, transferring eggs from the grass and trees into baskets and bags! The big smiles on their faces, along with cute (sometimes forced) thank you's, made the whole effort worthwhile! And aren't the kids the reason we do all this?!!

Those who helped with the festivities were: Wes Alderson, Ray Thomas, Vern Tabery, Maur Horton, Dave Sevall, Frank Masser, Arlen Hollinshead, Bruce Gilbertson and son, Torey, who gets the prize for coming the farthest, along with lowering the average age of the bunnies from about 68 to 64!!

Also, we want to extend a HUGE thank you to Bruce and Judy Gilbertson, who donated the eggs to the Club for this year's hunt!! We also acknowledge some \$ donations.

(Why I am an Optimist, cont'd)

The topic of the contest was "I Am Just One." That young girl's presentation was something special, and I still have a copy of that speech on the computer. Tara Bassett was a freshman student at St. Mary's of the Valley and, if my memory serves me correctly, she gave that speech around 35 years ago.

Now, I'll try to explain the reasons for my staying on with the club. I'm not ashamed to admit that I love kids, especially the little ones. There was a particular girl who was a student at North Salem High School whose decision to continue her education beyond high school was as a result of the recognition she received in the category of "Most Improved in Academics." There were and are many young people that we come in contact with during the course of months and years. How many others may have been inspired in much the same way by what we Optimists do? We just don't know about those others, yet just the knowledge of that one has given me a great deal of satisfaction.

Ye Olde Editor

## 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 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, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

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