

# THE GEO OPTIPINION



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June 2003

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**A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE GARDENA EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB  
ZONE 3 - PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

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## President's Message:

The Cheesecake Factory overlooking the yacht harbor in Redondo Beach was the setting for GEO's Respect for Law banquet on May 20<sup>th</sup>. GEO honored three outstanding students with a \$1,000 Respect for Law college scholarships and other gifts. The three students who were selected for their academic achievement, school activities and community service were Marisol Bazan of Gardena High, Joey Furutani of California Academy of Mathematics and Rafael Kang of Peninsula High. Congratulations !!



The guest speaker was FBI Agent Steven Oda, Commander of the FBI Swat Team in the Los Angeles FBI Office. Gardena Mayor Terry Terauchi gave a congratulatory address and words of encouragement to the honorees. Ed Cababa was in his usual good form as the emcee for the evening's program. Many thanks to Ron Mark and his committee for arranging the successful event, and to Dave Yamamoto and his committee for the selection of the scholarship recipients. I would like to also like to thank our members who supported the event with their attendance.

GEO had a strong presence at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly Pacific Southwest District Meeting in Palm Spring on May 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. I was unable to be there due to my overseas trip, but the following article by Zone 3 Lt. Governor Bill Coonce describes the event. I understand that the hospitality suite hosted by GEO on May 16<sup>th</sup> was a huge success thanks to Bill and others who worked hard to plan for it. Congratulations to the essay and oratorical contest winners at our club and zone level who were also successful at the District competition (see Bill's article below).

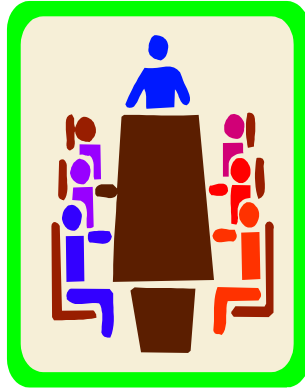
The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute is holding its annual carnival on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our club has always supported GVJCI by taking responsibility for the cooking and sale of the chicken teriyaki. Please support this program with the purchase of the carnival coupons which were mailed to you. The work roster is attached and your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

The Club Election was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the results are posted below. Congratulations to the newly elected officers and board members. The Club In Action program will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the El Polla Inka where new members will be inducted. GEO members who have friends interested in joining our club should invite them to this meeting.

Yours in Optimism,  
Louis

## Meetings:

- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00pm, **Members' Meeting**, Cherrystones, 15501 S. Vermont Ave. in Gardena.
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm **Board Meeting** at the JCI in room 206. All members invited.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – **Father's Day**
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm, **Club In Action**, El Pollo Inka Restaurant, 1425 Artesia Blvd, Gardena.
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Chicken Preparation, JCI
- June 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – JCI Carnival



## Club Elections:

The results of the Club Election which was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> are as follows:

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Pres-Elect/VP Internal Affairs | George Wada  |
| VP Youth Work                  | Ron Shintani |
| VP External Affairs            | Chris Yasaki |

The five new board members whose 2-year term will begin on October 1, 2003, are Mel Iizuka, Valerie Jung, Hiroshi Kika, Ron Mark, and Naomi Suwa.

Congratulations to the newly elected board members.

## Missing President?

Our President, Louis Ito, took a leave of absence from his duties in May for a trip to Japan. See the enclosed article from the Rafu Shimpo to see why.

## More Kudos

Louis is also being awarded some additional accolades. Again, see the enclosed writeup for more info.

## Braille Olympics:

The 31st Annual Optimist Braille Track & Field Olympics was cancelled due to rain, I wanted to thank the girl scouts and boy scouts for planning to attend up until the last minute rain storm and Bill and Mary Coonce who showed up for the indoor events for the out of state participants later that day.

Sid Halushka, Chairman

## Pacific Southwest District Meeting:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly meeting in Palm Springs was a huge success. Our GEO Club was well represented and I would like to thank everyone who went and helped with the Zone 3 Hospitality Room. On Friday evening our Zone put together an Asian style Hospitality Room that was visited by over eighty fellow Optimists from the PSWD. There were many compliments to our club on the good food and hard work that was put in.

On Saturday there were several meeting and training sessions to attend and at the noon luncheon Burt Nakamura and Dwayne Hayden were recognized and given certificates for being Optimists for 30 plus years of service. Congratulations Burt and Dwayne. On that same note the PSWD will be sending service certificates to Louis for the other members in our club that have 30 plus years, watch your news letters for a future dinner meeting that will be set up to pass out the certificates.

The District Oratorical and Essay Contest winners were also announced in Palm Spring and I'm proud to say that Alicia Lee received first place in the girls Oratorical and her sister Stephanie Lee received second all round in the Essay Contest. Both girls were sponsored by GEO, congratulations Alicia, Stephanie and Mom Mrs. Lee. Norm Hirata Oratorical and Essay Chair and Jim Carroll Assistant did a fabulous job this year, many thanks to you and your committee.

Saturday evening we all went out for a nice dinner and a little Jazz music. Thank you Dave Allen for setting that up; I know it's not easy finding a place that will sit 25 people of all ages.

I really am very thankful to everyone who attended this PSWD meeting in Palm Springs. From the Hospitality Room to Training Sessions to Business Meetings everyone contributed something and in the long run you all made our club a little bit stronger. Enormous thanks to Carolyn Hyatt and her sister Joan, Ron Mark and his wife Lisa, Dave Allen and his wife Anna, Gene Matsumoto and his wife Naomi, Dwayne Hayden and his wife Sue, Norm Hirata and his wife Arlene, Burt Nakamura and his wife Sadie, Chris Yasaki, Deryck Koga, George Nosaka,

Charles Zimmer and last but not least my wonderful wife Mary.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Zone 3

Bill Coonce

## Sansei Tristar:

The GEO-sponsored Sansei Baseball Tristar event was held Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at North High and it was the biggest turnout to date - 344 participants, surpassing last year's previous high by 90.

All participants were rewarded with a participation medal and the top 3 from each age division, 5 to 13, both boys and girls division, will be further recognized at the league's closing ceremonies, June 28th.

## Ho'olaule'a :

July is almost upon us, which means it's time to fire up the adobo and sweet sour ribs. The HICC Ho'olaulea will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Alondra Park. More details next month.

## This and That:

Be sure to let your editorial committee know if you've moved by emailing them at [webmastr@gardenaoptimist.org](mailto:webmastr@gardenaoptimist.org).

Also, if you'd like to be placed on the Club email list, drop a line to the same address.





**OFFICERS**

President..... Louis Ito  
 President Elect..... Carolyn Hyatt  
 Vice President ..... Robin Arakaki  
 Vice President ..... Bob Lyons  
 Secretary..... Chris Yasaki  
 Treasurer ..... Gene Matsumoto  
 IPP ..... Norm Hirata

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**First Year Members

Kathy Asanuma  
 Bill Coonce  
 Dwayne Hayden  
 Deryck Koga  
 Wes Sato

Second Year Members

Iopu Brian  
 Sid Halushka  
 Patty Kakita  
 Ed Kambe  
 Mike Tsuge

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Jim Carroll   Ed Kambe   Wes Sato

**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 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 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.

- Christian D. Larson

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