

THE JACKSON JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Jackson Michigan Optimist Club
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Weekly meetings on Thursday, 12:15 pm, at the Optimist Ice Arena,
1200 West North Street, Jackson MI; Call 517-783-2664 for information.

Check out our website www.optimistclubofjackson.org

The Jackson Optimist Charitable Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization

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President's Corner: Acting President Tom Mathes stood in for vacationing President Bob Inman. We hope he misses the bad weather that seems to have zeroed in on South Carolina this week. In any case, Tom introduced our guest speaker, Kim Hastings.



Kim is a transplant from New York. She didn't follow a straight line from NYC to Jackson, so to say, but she and her family have settled in Stockbridge. She represented the Jackson School of the Arts. This is a non-profit organization, located at 634 North Mechanic Street, in the Armory Arts Village. It brings opportunities to explore the arts to 219 Jackson kids. It's not an academy, per se. Academies teach specific disciplines, painting, sculpture, instrumental or vocal music, theater, and so on. Participants explore different types and levels of the arts, and they need to be creative. The dance program ranges from ballet and tap to hip-hop. These programs are outside of the school curriculum, and students must be able to deal with that schedule pressure. They are encouraged to be creative and have fun. Thirty percent of the students are from single parent households and 20 percent are minorities. These are the ones that need a boost in creativity, and intellectual growth and development. European students have much greater exposure to the arts. Only 60 percent of Jackson Public Schools student, for example, receive similar class and studio training. School for the Arts provides what exposure it can, but it needs to do more. They partner with JPS but, financially, they are on their own. They rely on tuition, grants, and donations. No child is turned away for non payment. There's a "sliding payment scale" to help parents keep their children enrolled. Those who qualify as "low income" can get scholarships, that's a formula based on annual income and family size.

Kim invited us to come down to the Armory Arts Village and see for ourselves. They are open Monday through Friday from 4pm to 8pm.



COMING UP: The Club Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd. If you haven't received a call, let Ray and Bev know that you plan to attend. Ditto: The Arena Board meeting is scheduled for February 9.

Secretary Dave Carlson will need some help reconstructing information about two projects, the Government Day and Christmas Shopping Spree. We have met the new member qualification for Honor Club. The next step is 3 CPAs (Community Project Awards.) The 3rd would be, either, Respect for Law or Junior Golf.



Speakers and events

February 4: Steve Noble, Recycling Jackson

February 11: Brandy Johnson-Faith, College Access Coordinator, Office of Governor Granholm

February 18: Greg Gallagher, Debra Kruse, Recovery Technology L. L. C.

February 25: Mike Beyerstedt, Fire Chief of Operations, City of Jackson

March 4: Ginny Wood-Bailey, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging

March 11: Brian D. Philson, President, Highfields

March 18: Judith Jove, Executive Director, Family Service, Children's Aid

March 25: Dian Breining, LPC, Counseling Psychologist, Dove Counseling

March 27 Go Kart racing on ice at the Arena

April 1: Hans Stahl, BioGreen Technologies

April 8: Keri Keck, Executive Director, Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse

April 15: Danielle Johnson, Family Advocate, Aware Shelter of Jackson

May 6: Respect for Law Program.

March: 18, 19, and 20 Battle of the Bands and a hockey tournament at the Arena.

June 10: Junior Golf Tourney at Arbor Hills.



No Birthdays in February



The 50/50 was shared by Barry Chambers and Jack Tornga. Jonathon Green and Denise Owens were awarded the Loud Mouth and Mummy, respectively.

Riddle: Answer

We had only one taker on the riddle, **Jason Coker. He was very close to the right answer – 1000 points** Is the wine barrel half full or half empty? Without any measuring implements or removing any wine from the barrel, how can they easily determine who is correct?

Tilt the barrel until the wine barely touches the lip of the barrel. If the bottom of the barrel is visible then it is less than half full. If the barrel bottom is still completely covered by the wine, then it is more than half full.

JOKE:

An elderly couple had been experiencing declining memories, so they decided to take a power memory class where one is taught to remember things by association.

A few days after the class, the old man was outside talking with his neighbor about how much the class helped him.

"What was the name of the Instructor?" asked the neighbor.

"Oh, ummmm, let's see," the old man pondered. "You know that flower, you know, the one that smells really nice but has those prickly thorns, what's that flower's name?"

"A rose?" asked the neighbor.

"Yes, that's it," replied the old man. He then turned toward his house and shouted, "Hey, Rose, what's the name of the Instructor we took the memory class from?"