

Local Student Wins Optimist Essay Contest

Rachel Anna Foster, a senior at Christian Heritage Academy, recently won the St. Simons Island's Optimist Club essay contest based on the theme "Today's Choices Shape My Future." In addition, Natalie Demarko was awarded second place and Jessie Weindorf, received third place, both women represented Brunswick High School.

Ms. Foster was awarded a gold medal and a \$200 Savings bond. In addition, the essay will be sent to the district level to be judged along with winners from other Optimist Clubs in Georgia. The winners of the district competition will go on to compete at the international level. College scholarships are available for the top winners at the district and international levels.

"Ms. Foster did a wonderful job of articulating this year's theme. She expressed herself well through the essay and deserved the honor of first place," stated Optimist Club President Carol Weber.

Optimist Clubs are about meeting the needs of young people in communities worldwide, they have been "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" since 1919. Last year alone, the St. Simons Optimist Club donated \$15,000 to support local youth programs. The Optimist Club meets every Thursday, except the first Thursday of the month at the King & Prince Hotel and is always interested in new members.



From left, Dr. Howard Berg, 1st place winner- Rachel Anna Foster, second place winner- Natalie Demarko, third place winner- Jessie Weindorf and SSI Optimist Club President Carol Weber

SSI Library League Sets Book Sale

The St. Simons Library League spring book sale is set for Saturday April 12, 9:00am-4:00pm and Sunday, April 13, 9:00am-3:00pm in the atrium of the Casino Theater, outside the St. Simons Public Library.

There is an early bird presale for Library League members only on Friday April 11 from 3:00-8:00pm. Memberships may be purchased at the presale for \$10.00.

Hardcover fiction, non-fiction, trade paperbacks, DVDs, VHS movies and audio books, as well as rare and first editions will be available.

Bruce Ramage who heads the book sale events says "we are expecting a great sale with lots of books. Donations of books are welcome. We are accepting books right up to the day of sale." You may drop your books at the St. Simons Library or for large quantities call 634-6277 and Bruce will arrange a pick up.

All proceeds from the sale benefit the St. Simons Library. Funds are used for Movie Night At The Casino, Lunch With The Author events, the Children's Summer Reading program and other events, as well as buying additional books for the library.

Youth in Government Day

The Optimist Club of Brunswick held its annual Youth In Government event. On March 13, students from Glynn Academy and Brunswick High joined Brunswick and Glynn County officials to see what it's like to work in government for a day.



Dr. Eric Linert Donates Time and Talent to Benefit Argentinean Children with Hearing Loss

Dr. Eric Linert of Advanced Hearing & Balance Center recently demonstrated that when it comes to caring for people with hearing loss, his care and compassion know no borders. Dr. Linert joined a contingent of American audiologists in Buenos Aires who donated their services to benefit children in need at the Mutualidad Argentina de Hipoacusicos (MAH), a Buenos Aires-based non-profit agency caring for Argentina's most needy population. Working side-by-side with audiologists from the non-profit organization, Dr. Linert and his colleagues provided hearing care to more than 100 children from a local school for the deaf. Hearing aid manufacturer Oticon, Inc. donated the hearing instruments to enable the volunteer team to care for even the most needy children.

"Our colleagues from the Mutualidad Argentina de Hipoacusicos staff also served as interpreters for us," stated Linert. "But we really didn't need anyone to interpret the joy of the children as they experienced the world through their new hearing instruments for the first time. Their happiness and the gratitude of their parents made the experience a fulfilling one for us as well."

Dr. Linert, who treats children and adults in his Brunswick practice, worked to ensure that each of the 100 children received individual care and attention. Over the coming months, the MAH audiologists will continue the care of the youngsters fitted with the Oticon hearing instruments, following their progress and adjusting the instruments to best suit the needs of each child.



From left, Dr. Eric Linert in Buenos Aires, with Alan Agosti one of the patients seen during his recent trip to Argentina, along with Alan's mother. Below, one of Eric's photos of the Perito Moreno Glacier in the Santa Cruz Province of Argentina, which he also visited.



Coastal Symphony Receives \$140,000

The unprecedented success of Cabaret, the annual fundraiser of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia Society, made possible the presentation of a \$140,000 gift to the Coastal Symphony of Georgia. The money represents the initial proceeds from Cabaret and is earmarked for the symphony's 2008-09 season (\$50,000), the symphony endowment fund (\$50,000), and the Youth Symphony's current season (\$40,000). The Society was formed to promote and support the Coastal Symphony, as well as music education in the local community.



From left, Symphony Society President Leslie Mattingly, Cabaret Chair Barbara Sullivan, Coastal Symphony of Georgia President Laura Cross, and Symphony Board Treasurer Russell Jacobs.

7th Annual Spring Fling Set for April 12

The Brunswick Glynn County Mayor's Committee on Services for the Disabled, Inc. will sponsor the 7th Annual "Spring Fling" at Mary Ross Park, Downtown Brunswick, on Saturday, April 12, from 12pm - 3pm. This unique event is provided for disabled citizens (regardless of age or type of disability) and the general public, to gather together for an afternoon of free food, activities, and live entertainment.

Featured entertainers include Marshgrass Bluegrass Band, Dance Jammers - Mobile DJs, Rainbow Express Cloggers, and a clown.

Activities will include lots of picnic and sport games, face painting, a bouncy slide and obstacle course, line dancing and more. See and pet therapy dogs and other animals. Raffle drawings will be held hourly.

Information booths will be available with representatives from businesses and organizations that provide services and products for disabled citizens.

Southeast Georgia Health System will provide First Aid for the event and free blood pressure and blood sugar screening. Bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating.

Spread the word. We do not want a single disabled citizen to miss this free event, and the general public is encouraged to attend too!

For more information, contact Steve Oldaker at 912-267-7613 or steve.oldaker@comcast.net, especially if you are interested in doing an article on this event.