

December 30, 2016

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

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

# Upcoming Events

## January

1/04: Gold Medalist Ginny Thrasher. Ginny won the very first gold medal at this summer's Olympics in Rio!



Now a sophomore at West Virginia University, this past star in the Arlington Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club will talk to us about what her life has been like this past year. At Sehkraft Brewing, 925 N. Garfield St. 12:00 to 1:30.



## December

12/01: Last Tree Unloading. Tree lot "party" started at 8:00 am. The final load of a total of 2,000 trees were stacked for sale. See Sandy Bushue's Christmas tree report, below, opposite.

12/07: Social time. This was a special opportunity to catch up and to honor those members who have been with the Arlington Optimists the longest. In that connection, the 10 active members with at least 20 years with the Club are: Judge Jim Almand (5/1979), Tom White (5/1980), Conley Ricker (7/1985), Richard Knight (6/1987), Al Pierce (8/1988), Morty Zetlin (8/1992), Whiz Mountain (9/1993), Jim Norris (10/1993), Bill

**1/18: History of Roosevelt Island:** NPS Cultural Resource Specialist Brad Krueger will give us the surprisingly interesting long history of the island that is now a preserve and monument to Teddy Roosevelt. WGCC 12:15- 1:30.

**1/25: Meet 'n' Greet Returns.** Possible venues are Lyon Hall or Sehkraft. Why don't you weigh in with president Mark Zetlin or organizer Tricia O'Hara? 5:30 to 7:00.

## **Christmas Tree Lot**

**Sandy Bushue's Report:** It appears that we have had an incredibly SUCCESSFUL tree season. We have had a record year in sales, in volunteers, and in every area. It is amazing!!!! I hope to be able to report soon how well we did. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard -- it showed!!!

**Swanson** (9/1994), and **Larry Gaydos** (9/1996). Please congratulate these stalwart leaders in the community and in our Club.

**12/14: Annual Christmas Breakfast.** Once again this year, **Brian Kellenberger** did a terrific job of



organizing and M/C-ing this event. We were treated by the W-L Madrigal singers (below), welcomed local



local officials, and heard another inspiring sermon from Pastor Drew

Big thank you to the sports teams Babe Ruth Baseball, soccer, hockey, YULA and Rifle Club. Also, York Town High School and OAR were critical. We could NOT have reached this success without their help and support.

Huge round of applause to John Karinshak who was on the lot every day and almost every minute. John also has been watching the money closely and recording it meticulously. John, a big THANK YOU!!!!

Dick McHugh gave John relief and did an excellent job with the WH ornaments.

Everyone should know the persistence of lot captain, Bob Patton and his enablers JB Whitlow, Dick McHugh, and Barbara Nicastro. On Sunday night, we had 75 trees left and the weather forecast was lousy.

Hill of Memorial Baptist Church, below:



There was also a proper opportunity for President Mark Zetlin to formally congratulate Sandy Bushue for being selected as Woman of the Year by the Inter-Service Club Council of Arlington last month. Photo below.



12/30: Tree Lot take-down. JB Whitlow and just a few Elves met in the morning to take apart the record-



"Yours truly" was fine with closing the lot and dumping the trees. Bob Patton and his "elves" disagreed.....

Bob asked for volunteers for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Bob said that he would manage the lot. Our extraordinary volunteer coordinator, Barbara Nicastro, got to work and successfully (have no idea how she pulled that off) provided Bob with volunteers. JB and Dick McHugh joined in and by Wednesday night at 5:30 pm, the last tree was sold!

breaking lot frames that they had assembled just a month before.



Above are the all-day deconstruction team, Brian Kellenberger, JB Whitlow, and Greg Clough. Morning helpers were Clayton DePue and his brother-in-law. Second-shift helpers were Mark and Debbie Whitenton.

## Tree Lot Photos



*Ironman John Karinshak with helper.*

Their extra effort brought in a few more thousand dollars and saved the expense of hauling the trees away and, now, 75 more families are enjoying a lovely Optimist Christmas tree. I am so impressed with the leadership, persistence, and optimism demonstrated here but also throughout the season.

I sincerely believe that our membership makes a great team and lives the spirit of optimism in every way. I am honored and humbled to be a member and I hope all of you feel the same.

Our tree lot is an important part of the Arlington community. This year I heard so many wonderful things about our lot and the annual tradition it has become for many families. Each of you make a difference in many ways throughout the year.



*Tom White has a steady hand.*



*Three wreath angles show off.*



*Clayton DePue is an artist.*

Happy New Year to all,

Sandy Bushue

The Arlington  
Optimist Club  
wishes you all a:



Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 Mid-Atlantic Region 3  
Capital- Virginia  
District 16 Northern Virginia Zone 4  
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*JB Whitlow says it's OK to take some.*



*Yorktown Hockey volunteers take a hot chocolate break.*



