

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

October 2020



October

October 7: If These Walls Could Talk by Charlie Clark, Arlington's renowned popular historian. His was a third visit to our Club in recent years. Charlie gave a



delightful presentation on Arlington's historic houses and those who lived in them. Thank you, Frank O'Leary for inviting him to speak with us again. [File photo from 2018 of Charlie Clark by Mark Whinton].

October 21: Arlington Historical Society President, Cathy Hicks explained the goals of the Arlington Historical Society is to conduct research and to preserve and disseminate knowledge relating to the history, archaeology, material, culture, and geographical and socio-economic development of Arlington.



She explained that the society works toward this goal through its historic resources, including two historic properties and its artifact collection. Cathy was invited by Frank O'Leary. [Above photo of Cathy and Jeff Englander provided by Tricia O'Hara].

Note that the luncheon attendees obeyed proper social distancing in this photo provided by JB Whitlow (right).



Also, at this luncheon, our new president, Jeff Englander, inducted John Hilton, our first new member since Debbie Whinton eighteen months ago! Thank you, Tricia O'Hara, for sponsoring John and encouraging him to join our Club.



Jeff Englander after inducting John Hilton, with John's sponsor, Tricia O'Hara.

Photo provided by Tricia.

October 28: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's BBQ was highly successful! Not only was Bob Bohle in attendance, but Brian Kellenberger brought two guests (both work for State Farm), Johnno Steffen and Rodney Louis. Both are joining the Club. In addition, Lola Reinsch brought Tim Landis, who also is joining the Club. Bob Bohle has been sponsored by Sandy Bushue and has worked hard to update our website, including adding a "Members Only" page. Jeff Englander will be inducting these four new members as soon as it can be arranged!



From left to right: front row is Peter Wehmann, Sue Gartner, Lola Reinsch and Bob Bohle. Rear row is Jeff Englander, Brian Kellenberger flanked by his two guests (Johnno Steffen and Rodney Louis), Sandy Bushue, and Tim Landis. Thank you, Peter, for this photo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4: The World War I Memorial by Edwin Fountain. Thank you again, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. Read more about Mr. Fountain in Appendix 2, below. WGCC at 12:15.

November 18: Prison Reforms by Jeffrey Washington of the American Correctional Association will be on hand to address the question of American

prisons, their problems and potential reform. For more information on Mr. Washington, please see Appendix 2. Thank you yet again, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

December 2: TBA. WGCC at 12:15.

December 16: Annual Christmas Breakfast: Thank you, Brian Kellenberger, for managing the Christmas Breakfast for the ninth year in a row!! Wow, no wonder he is our President for 2020-2021! WGCC at 7:30 am.

President's Message by Jeff Englander

Wow! What an amazing group of individuals we have as members of the Optimist Club of Arlington.

During my first three weeks as your President, I have experienced all the best of our Club through our member activity. There were many events and meetings that have happened – good things – and there is so much more in store for us in the coming months. Given all that is going on around us, the Optimist Club of Arlington seems to be the place where awesome things keep happening no matter the circumstances.

Please allow me a shout out to Mark Zetlin, our immediate Past President, for his efforts to professionally transition the presidency to me. Thank you, Mark, for all that you do for the Optimists. I greatly appreciate your leadership and enthusiasm for the club and its members.

We will formally honor Mark at the November 4th luncheon. Please attend to say thanks to him. To everyone, if you need a new vehicle, your first stop is Mark's dealership!

The Tree Lot committee is moving forward with warp speed to ensure a profitable and safe Christmas tree sale this year. Hats off to Sandy Bushue and her team for an outstanding job. Reminder -- please sign up for shifts on the lot. We need everyone to participate this year!

Sandy is also leading our membership recruitment efforts which has resulted in three new Optimists! Welcome aboard John Hilton, Bob Bohle (who manages our

web portal and Social Media) and Marta Hill Gray. There are three more folks in our pipeline. We are on a roll -- please keep recruiting for people who want to get out of the house!

My personal thanks go out to Frank O'Leary who is charged with recruiting speakers for our luncheons. Frank has speakers booked through March! Each of the speakers to date have been outstanding and I expect Frank's chosen speakers going forward will be exceptional as well. Our two October speakers, Charlie Clark and Cathy Hix were fabulous. Charlie quoted Frank in his latest "Our Man in Arlington" column in the *Falls Church News Press*. Read it here: <https://fcnp.com/2020/10/23/our-man-in-arlington-399/>

Our condolences go out to Gloria Mora on the passing of her husband Kurt. Our prayers are with Gloria and her family.

If you have not been to a luncheon in a while, I encourage you to venture out on November 4th. The Club, in partnership with the Washington Golf & Country Club staff, provides a very safe place to meet.

All the best of health to you and your family.

Optimist Tree Lot Update: by Sandy Bushue



Optimists,

Opening day for the 2020 Optimist Tree Lot is 27 days away!!! Do you realize that we have been selling Christmas trees since 1947 at the corner of Glebe Road and Lee Highway? What a record!!!

The tree lot schedule is included as an Appendix to this newsletter. Please take a look and if you have not signed up, please let me know. We need you! We have many openings that need to be filled. If you have a son, daughter, grandson or daughter that you think would enjoy helping out, please let me know. We need Optimist manpower to handle the sales.

Also, we need someone to open the lot every afternoon at 2:00 pm M - TH and on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Please let me know if you know someone who might be interested. We need the help!!

Richard Knight has been reaching out to our members present and past. Bruce

Arnold and Tom White have volunteered to help us out. I think John Maxwell is planning to help also.

The trees will be protected again this year. Andreas Baltatzis has arranged a security firm to watch the lot overnight. It is sad that we have to do this.

The tree shortage continues. If you recall, it began three years ago. It takes 6 to 8 years to grow a 6' tree. Growers are expecting a big year for retailers since many customers will remain home due to COVID.

I recently learned that we are the biggest tree retail outlet in No. VA. I don't know if I believe that, but we are a pretty big deal!!

Thank you Tricia O'Hara who has been busy getting press attention. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce will be running our ads and the Sun Gazette is also good about featuring the lot in a story. We will be updating the website so our customers can review our merchandise of trees, White House ornaments, tree stands, garland and wreaths.

As for our wreaths, they are going to be beautiful this year!! One of Arlington's own will be making the wreaths for the lot using our own clippings. I am confident our customers will love them!!

Stay tuned to updates and please note the lot schedule, attached as Appendix 1, and sign up.

Optimistically,
Sandy Bushue
202.352.4922



mw: 118

**Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org**

Appendix 1: Christmas Tree Lot Schedule (October 27) by Sandy Bushue



Tree Lot Calendar 2020 SCHEDULE (as of 10/27/2020)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you need to change your scheduled date and time, it is up to you to find your replacement.
 Out of courtesy, please contact the lot captain who is responsible for that week:
 11/27-12/4: Brian Kellenberger (kellenberbrk@gmail.com / 703.501.0343); 12/5-12/11: Andreas Baltatzis (abaltatzis@gmail.com / 703.862.3452);
 12/12-12/18: Jeff Englander (Englanderjettreyms@gmail.com / 703.300.3028); 12/18-12/22: Bob Patton (rpattin@hotmail.com / 703.981.3412).
 An Optimist Directory has been sent to each Optimist. Please use the directory to help find your replacement.

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | BABERUTH 11/27 | BABERUTH 11/28 |
| | | | | | | 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Gartner/Wehmann | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD |
| | | | | | | 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kellenberger | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Kellenberger |
| | | | | | | | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD |
| | BABERUTH 11/29 | BABERUTH 11/30 | BABERUTH 12/1 | BABERUTH 12/2 | BABERUTH 12/3 | BABERUTH 12/4 | BABERUTH/YULA 12/5 |
| Captain: Kellenberger | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Gartner/Wehmann | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Burson | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitenton's | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard | Noon - 5:00 p.m. Gartner/Wehmann/ Bushue | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bushue/O'Hara |
| | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Kellenberger | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Whitow | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Zettin | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. White | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. White | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Baltatzis |
| | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | | | | | | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD |
| | BABERUTH/YULA 12/6 | BABERUTH/YULA 12/7 | BABERUTH/YULA 12/8 | BABERUTH/YULA 12/9 | BABERUTH/YULA 12/10 | AGBS 12/11 | 12/12 |
| Captain: Baltatzis | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Burson | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bushue | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard | Noon - 5:00 p.m. Bushue | ACORNS ALL DAY/ EVERY SHIFT |
| | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bushue | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Baltatzis | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Zettin | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Baltatzis | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | |
| | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | | | | | | |
| | 12/13 | AGBS 12/14 | AGBS 12/15 | AGBS 12/16 | AGBS 12/17 | 12/18 | 12/19 |
| Captain: Englander | ACORNS ALL DAY/ EVERY SHIFT | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitow | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitenton's | Noon - 5:00 p.m. Whitow | 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD |
| | | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Englander | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Englander | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Englander | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD |
| | | | | | | | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD |
| | 12/20 | 12/21 | 12/22 | | | | |
| Captain: Patton | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitow | | | | |
| | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | | | | |
| | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD | | | | | | |

Lot Workers

Appendix 2: Background on November Speakers by Frank O'Leary

November 4 - Edwin Fountain, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, World War I - The Forgotten War

Edwin Fountain has lived in Arlington intermittently since he was four years old, and most recently since 1995. After graduating from Yorktown High School (Class of 1982) he attended the University of North Carolina, the London School of Economics, and the University of Virginia Law School. He was a litigation partner at the international law firm Jones Day in its Washington DC Office until 2015, when he left to become the first General Counsel of the American Battle Monuments Commission, a U.S. government agency headquartered here in Arlington that builds and maintains American military cemeteries and memorials around the world.

Edwin began his advocacy for a national World War I memorial in 2008, which led to his appointment as Vice Chair of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission. Since 2014 he has led the establishment of the national World War I memorial at Pershing Park in Washington, which is scheduled to be dedicated next month and completed in 2023.

Edwin is a member of Leadership Arlington, Class of 2011. He served on the Arlington County Commission for the Arts from 2011-14. He was appointed to the Arlington County Industrial Development Authority in 2017 and was elected chairman in 2018.

November 18 - Jeffrey Washington, American Correctional Association (ACA) America's correctional System - Can It Be Improved?

Jeffrey Washington has served as Deputy Executive Director for the American Correctional Association since August 1995. Serving under the Executive Director conducting Association business, he is responsible for liaison between the Executive Director and Association staff, and liaison to the press and media. In the absence of the Executive Director, he serves as the Executive Director, attending to Association business and making key decisions relating to the day-to-day operation of the Association and overall operations. He meets with the Executive Committee and with the Executive Director to set Association goals and objectives. He travels nationwide to promote the Association and national correctional policies. Mr. Washington has served in many positions for the American Correctional Association from 1985- present. Those positions include regional administrator; deputy administrator; administrator; director and deputy executive director.