

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

June 30, 2021



June Events

06/02: Dr. Mark Benbow on "Education in Old Arlington - The History of Hume School."

Thank you, Frank O'Leary for arranging for Dr. Benbow, who manages the Arlington Historical Museum (the Hume School).

06/16: Tamara Moore on "The Man Who Knew Where the Bodies Were Buried". Ms.

Moore talked about her great-grandfather, James Parks, an enslaved person at Arlington House who later became the first superintendent for burials at Arlington Cemetery. See photo at right, where Ms. Moore is receiving our Optimist gift from Jeff Englander. Ms. Moore was invited by Frank O'Leary.

06/26: Meet & Greet was held at Texas Jacks. These casual gatherings had been gaining not only in attendance, but importance. However, Jeff Englander personally invited seven prospective members to attend the June Meet & Greet, but



unfortunately, none of them showed up. Nevertheless, seven Optimists attended. See photo below, provided by Peter Wehmann.



June 26 Meet & Greet: from l to r: Mark Zetlin, Peter Wehmann, Erin Mendenhall, Jeff Englander, Sue Gartner, Brian Kellenberger and Chanda Choun.

Accordingly, Jeff has determined that the July Meet & Greet should be cancelled, a decision that will conserve the Optimist Club's limited operating budget.

July and August

7/07: Escape from Communist Vietnam. Sonia Johnston, now a regional president of John Marshall Bank, will tell the harrowing and exciting tale of her and her family's escape from Communist Vietnam and subsequent success in Arlington. Once again, thank you Frank O'Leary. WGCC at 12:15.

7/21: Arlington's Ball Sellers Mansion. Annette Benbow, docent at the Ball Sellers Mansion will tell us all about this oldest existing building in Arlington, and

the importance of the Ball family in the history of Arlington [such as Ball's Crossroads, now "Ballston"]. WGCC at 12:15.

8/04: Bowen McCauley Dance Company. Lucy Bowen McCauley will join us to personally give us the news of "the end of the trail" for the company. Find out what that means at the WGCC at 12:15. As always, we are indebted to **Frank O'Leary** for our luncheon speakers.

Optimist Club Supports Arlington Athletes



By Richard Knight

On June 9, the Better Sports Club of Arlington held its marquee event this year outside at Barcroft Park, marking its 65th annual awards ceremony where trophies were presented to 31 individual high-school athletes. The Optimist Club presented the Male Athlete of the Year trophy to Lukai Hatcher of Wakefield High School for his football

accomplishments; he plans to play football for Old Dominion University next year. See his photo, right, receiving the trophy from him on behalf of the Optimist Club. The Female Athlete of the Year was presented by the Better Sports Club to Ainsley Pollack, also of Wakefield High School, who plans to attend Duke University. The Better Sports Club annually recognizes the outstanding athletes of Arlington County and presents each with a trophy and has bi-monthly meetings with speakers discussing sporting events. In the past there was a cross-over of members as many members of the Optimist Club were also members of the Better Sports Club and served as officers in both clubs. The two clubs share a common interest in their programs for supporting the best in youth and recognizing their outstanding achievements.

President's Message by Jeff Englander

The US is returning to normal a lot faster than I expected given the number of people eating at restaurants and shopping in stores. People are truly optimistic for the future. The next six months will be truly exciting.

Arlington optimists are out ahead of the crowd having regrouped beginning back in late March when the Governor began to revise his orders. We have been getting back to normal with fabulous speakers and great Happy Hours.

Our 75th birthday as a club will be December 12th. Think of ideas on how we can celebrate this exciting milestone.

I have asked Erin Mendenhall and Brian Kellenberger to lead the return of the Respect for Law Day where we ask Sheriff Beth Archer, our new Police Chief Andy Penn and the head of the Court Services Division to nominate outstanding individuals on their team. The nominees will be honored at our luncheon on September 15th.

The Tree Lot committee is gearing up for what is forecasted to be another fabulous year in sales. I am very optimistic that we will turn in outstanding revenues. We need your help in alerting your family, friends, neighbors and work colleagues that our lot opens on November 26th. Get there early to be sure to get a tree. We turned away about 20 potential customers last year when we were dismantling the lot last December. Trees will go fast.

For the July 7th luncheon, Frank O'Leary secured an exceptional speaker talking about the evacuation of the US Embassy in Saigon. The speaker was on the helicopter leaving the compound from the embassy rooftop. You need to be here to listen to this first-hand account of what happened during the April 1975 evacuation.

Our membership drive continues. Let's give others the opportunity to enjoy a membership in the Optimist Club of Arlington.

Have a great day!



mw: 126
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
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www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org