

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

May 25, 2021

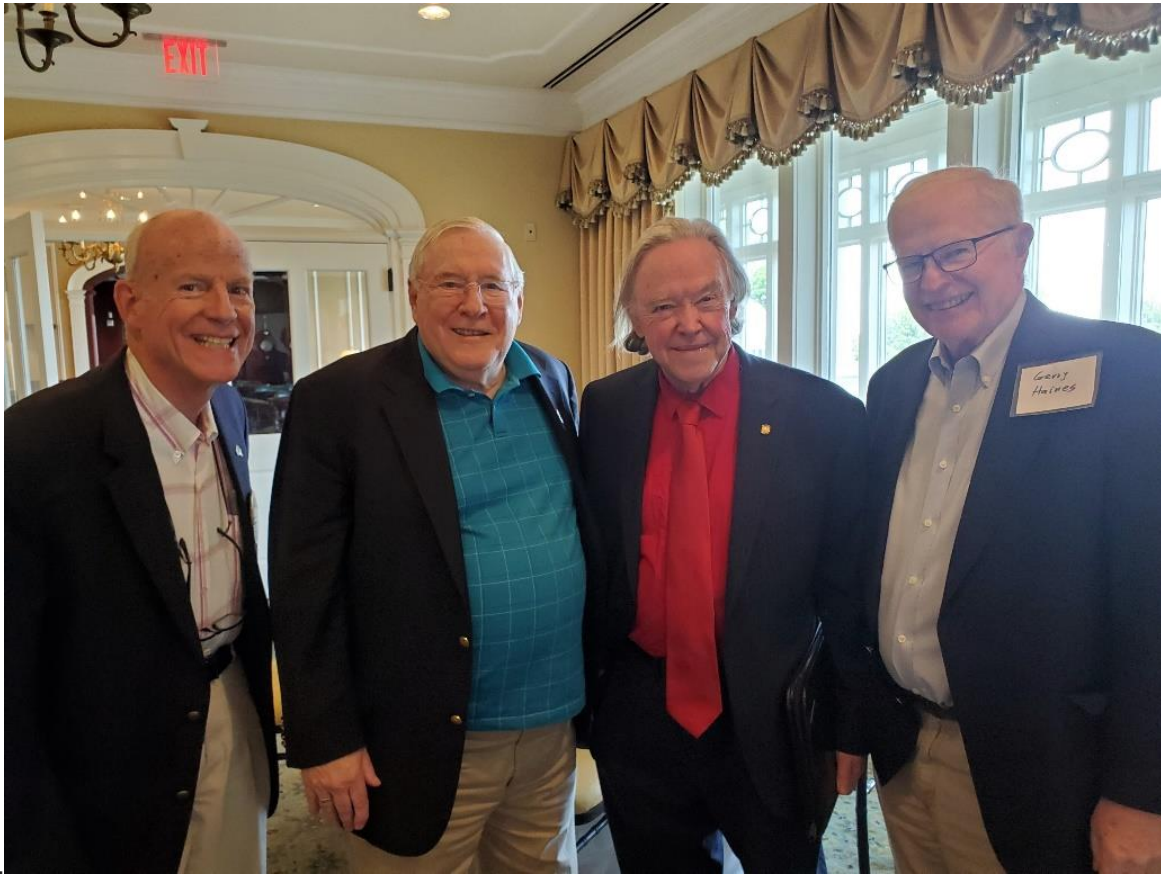


May

05/05: Our speaker was Jeff Washington. Jeff discussed how the American Correctional System might be improved. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary**, for inviting him. (Photo provided by **Jeff Englander**).



05/19: Jim Turpin spoke to us about "Political Symbols - Foreign and Domestic. Jim was invited by **Frank O'Leary**, seen below with (l. to r.) **Jim Almand**, Frank O'Leary, Jim Turpin and guest Gerry Haines (see photo next page provided by guest Susan Prokop).



05/26: Meet & Greet will be held at Texas Jacks. These casual gatherings have been gaining not only in attendance, but importance. **Jeff Englander** has noted that despite COVID restrictions affecting our luncheons, many newly admitted Optimists and current applicants have been able to share in the comradery and Optimist spirit at recent Meet & Greets. So, please bring a colleague who might want to join our Club to Texas Jack's tomorrow! 5:30-7:00.

June

6/02: Dr. Mark Benbow on "Education in Old Arlington - The History of Hume School." **Frank O'Leary** provides the following introduction: Dr. Mark Benbow joined Marymount University's faculty in 2007, first serving as an adjunct, then as

an assistant professor, earning tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2018. From 1987 to 2002, Dr. Benbow worked on national security issues for the federal government. From 2003 to 2006, he was the historian at the Woodrow Wilson House Museum in Washington, DC. He also serves as Museum Director for the Arlington Historical Society and manages the Arlington Historical Museum (The Hume School). He earned his BA in history from Hanover College in Indiana in 1981 and his MA in history from Wright State University in 1983. From 1983-1987 he studied for his doctorate in American History at Ohio University under Alonzo Hamby. From 1987 until 1999 he worked towards completing his degree, finally finishing in 1999.

A Dayton, Ohio native, Dr. Benbow is a lifelong devoted fan of the Cincinnati Reds, has been happily married for almost thirty years, and is the adopted dad to a small herd of rescued dogs and cats. Since 1976 he's been a collector of metallic malted beverage containers.

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

Ms. Moore has been invited by Frank O'Leary, who provides the following background: In 1864, a young man named James Parks, a newly emancipated slave born on the grounds of the Washington Parke Custis estate known as Arlington, was hired by the US Army for a singular purpose - to bury dead soldiers on the mansions' extensive acres. He performed this task until his death in 1929 and earned the unofficial title as the first superintendent for burials at Arlington Cemetery. It is only because of James Parks' extensive knowledge of this historic property that its restoration in the 1920's to its pre-war condition was possible. Upon his death, the Secretary of War granted special permission for James Parks to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors - the first non-soldier so honored. Please join us at the June 16 luncheon to hear the fascinating story of the life and times of "Uncle Jim" as recounted by his great-granddaughter and distinguished local historian, Tamara Moore.

06/23: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. 5:30 to 7:00.

Arlington Optimist Club 2021 Scholarship Winners

The Arlington Optimist Club is proud to announce this year's five winners of our \$5,000 college scholarships. Thank you, Scholarship Committee of Mark Whitenton, Richard Knight, Debbie Whitenton and Erica Burson. Special thanks to Sandy Bushue and to Jeff Englander, who initiated a reprogramming of the Essay Contest funds to a fifth scholarship.

Mekyah Dunbar of Wakefield High School.



Eric Robles of Wakefield High School.



Mekyah will be attending ODU or George Mason

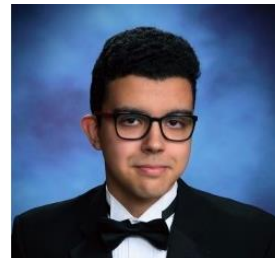
Eric will be attending VA Tech

Olivia Chiappetta
of Bishop O'Connell High School.



Olivia will be attending Holy Cross University

Adellah Mouslik of Washington-
Liberty High School.



Abdellah will be attending George
Washington University

Armita Dadvar of Yorktown High School, who will be attending Gorge Mason University.



President's Message

The month of May was our coming back party with members attending our events after they have completed their vaccinations. How wonderful to see people that I have not seen since the tree lot. Everyone had a great time at the luncheons where both events were a sellout. Fabulous speakers and terrific conversations.

With speakers committed through January, thanks to Frank O'Leary, we have a great program ahead for our membership. The next Happy Hour will be this Wednesday at Texas Jacks in Arlington. Please plan to attend and meet our prospective members. Let's show the prospects that the Optimists is the service organization to belong to in Arlington.

Membership growth is our focus with nine prospective members interested in our Club. However, we can always use additional prospects. Please reach out to work colleagues, business partners and neighbors to see if there are interested folks who want to help the youth of Arlington.

Have a great Memorial Day celebration with your families. Please take a moment to remember the fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives so we can live free. To all those who have served our nation in the armed forces, thank you very much for your dedication to protecting our liberties.

Only the best wishes for everyone.

Jeff



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