

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth
February 28, 2022



February Events

2/02: Boss Shepherd. Local historian John Richardson, joined us

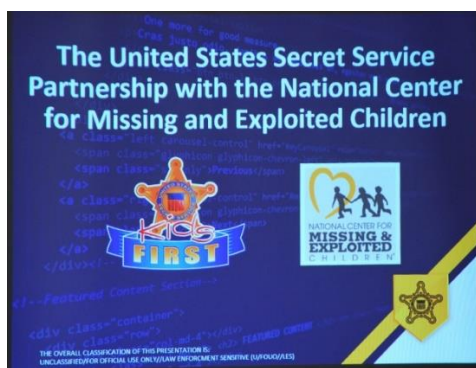


to enlighten us on the life and times of "Boss Shepherd," the man who did so much to shape the city of Washington. John Richardson wrote the book, *Alexander Robey Shepherd, the Man Who Built the Nations' Capital*. Shepard put flesh on the bones of the L'Enfant Plan, which in 1870 was still only lines on a map. Shepherd also consolidated the three separate parts of the District (Georgetown, Washington City, Washington County), permitting city-wide legislation and development for the first time.

Shepherd's legacy today is the modern city of Washington, whose infrastructure he built in a frenetic three years from 1871-1874.

Alexander Shepherd deserves a good deal more credit than he receives, since he is indeed the father of modern Washington. See photo, above, provided by Brian Kellenberger. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for scheduling John.

2/16: Martha Maurer, a Special Agent with the US Secret Service, gave us a detailed explanation of how members of the US Secret Service have been volunteering their time to partner with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to help educate parents and children about online and personal safety. Thank you, **Trisha O'Hara**, for inviting Special Agent Maurer and for inviting reporter **Scott McCaffrey**, who filed a terrific article about the luncheon in the **Sun Gazette** – see <https://sungazette.news/secret-service-partners-with-communities-to-protect-youth/>.



Tricia O'Hara, Special Agent Maurer and **Brian Kellenberger**. Photos by **Mark Whitenton**.

2/23: Meet & Greet: Good attendance again this month, with many guests!



Please see the photo, above, provided by Brian Kellenberger. Counterclockwise: Eric Turner (guest of Brian), JB Whitlow, Brian Kellenberger, Peter Wehmann, Tom Harris (guest of Shawn Harris), Jeff Englander, Mark Zetlin, Shawn Harris (who is poised for induction), Sue Gartner, Gavin Authier (guest of Brian), and Sydney Kellenberger (wife and guest of Brian).

March

3/02: Charlie Clark, highly regarded local historian and author of a score of books on Arlington, will speak on his recent publication *Lost Arlington* and the dark days when the American Nazi Party was headquartered in our fair county.

This will be Charlie's third visit to talk to our Club! Please come to the luncheon to thank him and to learn more about Arlington's complex past. Thank you, Frank O'Leary for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

3/16 - Matt de Ferranti, County Board Member and immediate past chair, will discuss what he has learned about Arlington in his four years of service and his priorities for the future. Once again, thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

3/23: Meet & Greet: Texas Jack's (2761 Washington Blvd) from 5:30 to 7:00. Hope to see you there with a potential Optimist member!

April

4/06: Hannah Dannenfelser, Community Engagement Director, Leadership Center for Excellence/Volunteer Arlington, will speak on her program's mission and accomplishments and how Optimists might want to get involved. Frank O'Leary, who invited her, has asked Erin Mendenhall to introduce her.

4/16: No speaker scheduled as of now.

4/23: Meet & Greet: Texas Jack's (2761 Washington Blvd) from 5:30 to 7:00. Hope to see you there with a potential Optimist member!

President's Message by Brian Kellenberger

As Spring approaches, I saw some crocus and daffodils sprouting this week, I can't help but be Optimistic about the club and all we do for the Youth of Arlington. We have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to as we spring ahead.

We filled every seat at the last lunch, had a great write up in the Sun Gazette about our lunch speaker (thank you Tricia!), had a full Meet & Greet with five potential new members and voted in a new member, Shawn Harris (welcome Shawn!). A busy and successful February for sure!

A quick update on the tree lot. After reaching out to some executives at Wells Fargo, they did get back to me with a decision on whether or not we could use the lot this year. They decided to stick with their earlier decision and not allow us to use their lot this year. Their reasons were very weak. Liability, customer impact and consistency with messaging to others that have requested to use the lot. It is disappointing and sad to me that a bank in our community does not want to partner with an organization like ours that supports the Youth of Arlington and to sever a very long-term relationship. Still hopeful that someone over there wants to do the right thing and let us use the lot.

I have reached out to Overlee Pool and requested permission to use their lot. But, if you have other alternative sites in mind, please let me know. We will be having a tree sale this year!

Here's to a great March and warmer weather!

Optimistically yours,

Brian
POTOC



mw: 133
Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org