

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth



March
2019

All the news that fits, we print.

March 2019 Events

3/06: Dean M. Nidosik, JR., Booz Allen Hamilton, on "Embracing Change -



Technology in the 21st Century". His comments were focused on the challenge of moving U.S. cell phone coverage from today's 4th Generation technology to the already proven 5 G. The problem is the enormous cost and effort required of upgrading every cell tower in the U.S. to the new technology. Gloria Mora, thank you for arranging this speaker. Also at the luncheon, Sandy Bushue delivered her anticipated report on the results of the Christmas tree lot. She said we had a very good year and sold all of our trees, but that we were short almost 200 trees from what we purchased. Although there is a national

Christmas tree shortage, Sandy told us that she has been able to secure a good supply of trees for this fall.

3/20: Everyone Has a Good Time at Hillwood Estate. Angelina M. Lopez, a docent with the Merriweather Post Museum in NW Washington, gave us an



entertaining account of the story of Marjorie Merriweather Post and the fantastic Russian and French furniture and exquisite art she collected -- including rare Imperial eggs and extraordinary sets of exquisite dining china and toilette items. As the wealthiest woman in the U.S. at the time, Ms. Post educated herself in the arts (preferring furniture and items to paintings and statues). Although Gloria Mora has handed the Speakers Committee chair to Shandra Niswander, Gloria continues to schedule interesting speakers for us, such as Angelina. Thank you, Gloria.

At the March 20 luncheon, we were pleased to induct Diane Andrews as a full member of the Arlington Optimist Club. Diane is a retired school teacher, returning to our area from a career in Houston, Texas. She has already begun



volunteering with us by serving as a judge in the Oratorical Contest at Swanson Middle School on April 10. By the way, Richard Knight still needs two more judges for Kenmore Middle School contest on April 3, see story on page 5 below.

(Photo provided by Clayton Depue).

3/27: Meet & Greet. Again at the Westin Hotel, this third Meet & Greet for 2019 was well attended. Thank you, Shandra Niswander.



From l to r: Clayton Depue, Shandra Niswander, Sue Crow, Tricia O'Hara, Jeff Englander, Erin Mendenhall, Mark Zetlin, Richard Knight, Brian Kellenberger, Sue Gartner, Peter Wehmann, Mark Whitenton, Debbie Whitenton, Sandy Bushue, and Robert Roudik.
(Photo by waiter).

Upcoming Events

April

4/03: “Youth In Transition” Program (tentative) by Andrew Schneider, Arlington Thrive Executive Director and Caroline Jones, E.D., of Doorways for Women and Families. WGCC at 12:15.

4/017: Essay Contest Winners. Thank you, Jeff Englander, for managing this core Optimist program for our Club again this year. Jeff reports the following: I want to thank Sandy Bushue, Linda Chandler, Tricia O'Hara, Andreas Baltatzis, Greg Clough, and Erica Burson for reviewing and grading this year's essay contest entries. I greatly appreciate your support and efforts for our 68 participants this year. As a comparison, last year there were 23 participants. Our judges are outstanding! Our 2018-19 winner is Thomas Dannenfelser, a senior at Bishop O'Connell who will be attending UVA in the Fall. When I met with Thomas today, he mentioned that he is in the running for the class valedictorian. Our second place winner is Kyle Leverone of Bishop O'Connell. The third place winner is Jennifer Gulley of Bishop O'Connell.

4/24: Meet & Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

May

5/01: Oratorical Contest. Again this year, Richard Knight has managed this vital AOC program. WGCC at 12:15.

5/15: Scholarship Winners. Please join us to celebrate our Club's 2019 scholarship winners from Arlington's three high schools and Bishop O'Connell. Thank you, Mark Whitenton, for managing this essential program again this year. WGCC at 12:15.

5/22: Meet & Greet. At the Westin Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00.

Oratorical Contest - Your Help is Needed

Richard Knight, manager of our Oratorical Contest, needs two more judges at the April 3 Oratorical contest at 7 PM at the Kenmore Middle School. Please call Richard at (703) 216-2369 if you can help the Club out. Also, you are encouraged to attend the two contests: the preliminary contest at Kenmore on April 3 at 7:00, and the finals at Swanson Middle School on Wednesday, April 10.

The President's Column:

Youth Club Donations: On Monday, the Optimist Board met to allocate this past fall's Christmas tree lot net profits among deserving organizations. In addition to the funds going for the annual scholarships and the winners of the Essay and Oratorical contests, the Board voted to continue its support for Babe Ruth Baseball, the Arlington school hockey teams, Arlington Soccer, Arlington YULA (frisbee), and the Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club. The Board also voted to repeat last year's first-time donations to the Regrati-fying Foundation and Opera NOVA. Finally, the Board donated the remaining balance of the Christmas tree lot profits to three new applicants: the Arlington Girls Softball Association, W-L & Yorktown Crew Teams, and Arlington Thrive. Thank you, Sandy Bushue, the entire Christmas tree Committee, and all of the members of our Club for a good year of sales to enable us to donate the profits to so many Arlington youth(s). Please double check your email for your dues invoice that was sent out on March 21st. Mark Whitenton

Out and About

On March 15, Brian Kellenberger represented the Arlington Optimist Club at the final hockey game between Yorktown and Washington-Lee. Brian, our Club's

hockey liaison, dropped the ceremonial puck and the Optimists were publically thanked by the teams. This year, the Washington-Lee hockey team won, 4 to 2.

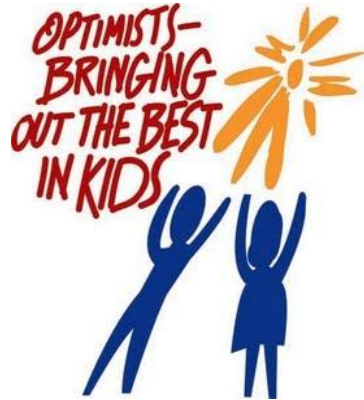


(Photos provided by Brian Kellenberger).

On March 23, Tricia O'Hara and Chanda Choun attended the Opera Nova production of Hansel and Gretel at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre.



Hansel is kneeling down with Chanda Choun. Tricia O'Hara, Lola and members and supporters of Opera Nova. (Photo provided by Tricia O'Hara).



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**Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 ;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4
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