

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

November 2019



NOVEMBER

11/06: The New China: The Awakened Dragon. Mark and Debbie Whinton, gave us a in-depth briefing on the phenomenal progress that China has made over the past 20 years. With additional comments provided by Dick McHugh and Sandy Bushue, Mark and Debbie gave a part-lecture, part-travelogue on what they learned and saw during their recent two-week trip.



Mark pointed out the trip route and provided many facts about the Chinese economy, population, and pollution issues. Debbie described the modern cities and tourist sites, such as the buildings (and smog) in Xian, the home of the Terracotta Warriors in the photo above.



11/20: The annual ISCC meeting: Twelve Optimists came out to support our local Inter-Service Club Council at the WGCC luncheon: Mark Zetlin, JB Whitlow, Gloria Mora, Erin Mendenhall, Dick McHugh, Gerry Marosek, Richard Knight, Sue Gartner, Jeff Englander, Clayton Depue, Chanda Choun, and Erica Burson. Dick won the substantial 50/50 and Erica won a White House ornament. A lucky duo.

11/22: Christmas Tree Lot Construction: JB Whitlow led the team again this year to put the Christmas tree lot together at the corner of Lee Hwy and Glebe Road.



Despite the rain, other Optimists came out to help, including: Conley Ricker, Frank O'Leary, Brian Kellenberger, Greg Clough, Richard Knight, and Clayton DePue, as well as several Babe Ruth Baseball folks. As usual, JB had to come out again on Saturday to finish many details, including putting up all the lights.

Photo provided by Sandy Bushue. See her article, below on page 5.

11/25 & 26: Unloading trees. **Richard Knight** managed the tree unloading operation both days, during which 700 trees were unloaded each day. Richard was assisted by **Sue Gartner**, **Peter Wehmann**, and **Barbara Nicastro** on both

days, with **Jeff Englander** helping on Monday and **JB Whitlow** on Tuesday.



The support of the Yorktown Crew team, their parents, and the Yorktown Booster Club, who showed up on the 25th, did much of the heavy lifting that unloaded the 700 trees in good order. [*Photo provided by **Richard Knight***].



The unloading team for November 26: (l. to r. in second row) **Peter Wehmann**, **Sue Gartner**, **Barbara Nicastro**, and **Richard Knight**, posing with the terrific crew from the Phoenix House. Missing from the photo is **JB Whitlow**. *Photo provided by **Barbara Nicastro***.

11/29: Tree Lot to Open. See file photo, below.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December

12/04: Our speaker will be Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Member. Thank you, Mark Zetlin and Shandra Niswander, for inviting her. WGCC at 12:15.

12:11: The Annual Christmas Breakfast! Once again managed by Brian Kellenberger, this year will again feature Madrigals, public officials, and a keynote speaker in the very grand ballroom of WGCC. Note the time: 7:30 am to 9:00 am.

January

1/08: Speaker TBA. Texas BBQ (2761 Washington Blvd) at 12:15.

1/22: Speaker TBA. WGCC at 12.15.

1/29 : Meet & Greet, Texas BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00.

CHRISTMAS LOT UPDATE



by **Sandy Bushue**:

Last Friday, the 2019 Tree Lot Season got off to a rainy start. The rain did not deter JB Whitlow and crew as they pushed through the day to erect a spectacular tree lot. By Friday evening, it looked pretty much done! “Old Glory” was raised over the lot on Saturday signifying, “we are ready to go”! Kudos to JB and crew!!!

Regarding the flag, JB always ensures every year that our beautiful flag is flying over head. Thank you JB for that thoughtful and sincere and patriotic gesture.



JB Whitlow, Conley Ricker, Brian Kellenberger;



JB Whitlow, Missy Heitzman (Babe Ruth)

By the time you receive this newsletter over 1400 trees will have been delivered and unloaded on the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot. The Arlington Optimist has honored this tradition for 74 years - same location, same time of year and same products! What a record!!

Another big thank you to all of you for responding to my emails regarding scheduling. We are in pretty good shape. Our volunteers play a major role in the success of the lot. Thank you Barbara Nicastro for coordinating. Babe Ruth Baseball has stepped up already providing volunteers for the setup on Friday and Saturday. Thank you Babe Ruth!



Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, JB Whitlow, Frank O’Leary, and Keith Williams
from Babe Ruth

A big shout-out to **Greg Clough** who manages our website. It was Greg who added the “banner” on our website. Thank you Greg for all the things you do for the Club!

Note the pictures provided by **Conley Ricker**!!! A very handsome, strong crew!! It looked like a wonderful day to be an Optimist!

Sandy Bushue

PRESIDENT's COLUMN

Hoping everyone has happy Thanksgiving holiday. Remember that the best way we can share our happiness and optimism is to help the Youth of Arlington by recruiting more Optimists this year!

Mark Zetlin, President



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***Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005 ;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
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