

# The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

September 2020



## September

### September 2: US Dependence on China for Generic Drugs. We



were lucky to have Rosemary Gibson to inform us just how serious this dependency has become. Tricia O'Hara provides the photo at left and the following write-up of the

**luncheon:** On Wednesday September 2, 2020, at the Washington Golf and Country Club, the Optimist Club of

Arlington welcomed their guest speaker, *Rosemary Gibson, senior adviser at the Hastings Center and author of [China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicine](#)*. This probing book examines the implications of our reliance on China on the quality and availability of vital medicines. The subject matter was so intense as the Optimist members sat anxiously listening to the facts. The moment the presentation began hands went flying in the air, bombarding the author with questions. The Q&A continued throughout the presentation and went way far beyond the allotted time-frame of the Optimist's luncheon/meeting. **Thank you, Sue Gartner for arranging for this speaker.**

**September 16: American Immigration Policies in the 20th Century by David North. Frank O'Leary describes the speaker as follows:** David North, one of our nation's leading authorities on American immigration policies,



delivered a very substantive presentation on the subject, which led to spirited and interesting exchanges with those in attendance. Among the facts presented was that Arlington's foreign born population has actually declined in the last five years from (a surprising) thirty-five percent to twenty-eight percent. **Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting him. Photo at right provided by JB Whitlow.**

**September 23: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's BBQ was attended by six Optimists and three guests. See photo, below, provided by Peter Wehmann.**



Seated l to r: Tricia O'Hara, Jeff Englander, Sandy Bushue. Standing l to r: John Hilton (guest of Tricia), Bob Bohle (guest), Lola Reinsch (guest), Peter Wehmann, Sue Gartner and Mark Zetlin.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 7: Arlington Legislative Matters by Delegate Patrick Hope. Perhaps he will discuss Virginia's re-districting plans. Thank you, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.**

**October 21: Arlington Historical Society. Cathy Hix was invited by Frank O'Leary. WGCC at 12:15.**

**October 28: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's BBQ from 5:30 to 7:00.**

**November 4: The World War I Memorial** by Edwin Fountain. Thank you again, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

**November 18: Prison Reforms.** A representative of the American Correctional Association will be on hand to address the question of American prisons, their problems and potential reform. Thank you yet again, Frank, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

**December 2: TBA.** WGCC at 12:15.

**December 16: Annual Christmas Breakfast:** Thank you, **Brian Kellenberger**, for managing the Christmas Breakfast for the ninth year in a row!! Wow, no wonder he is our President for 2020-2021! WGCC at 7:30 am.

## **2020 Optimist Tree Lot Report by Sandy Bushue**



Thank you to those who signed up for the tree lot in September!!! The draft participation calendar is provided in Appendix 1 to this newsletter. Also, please check out our website that features the tree lot preparation for December. [www.optimistclubofarlington.org](http://www.optimistclubofarlington.org).

Barbara Nicastro is signing up volunteers also. Every year we say that we need volunteers. This year is the biggest need for volunteers. We still need daily lot managers. Originally, we were looking for 2 but we can take a few more. The lot managers can work together to schedule their times. A lot manager does NOT need to be an Optimist. If you know someone that may want to help, please let me know.

As you would expect, our Grower raised his prices. The shortage continues and will probably do so for a few more years. The Grower shared that the industry is expecting a big year in December. Thank goodness we ordered our trees back in February.

Richard Knight is planning the unloading parties. Stay tuned to more information including dates and times on that fun event.

Here is the 2020 Tree Lot Committee. If you would like to join us, please do! We work hard but have fun!

JB Whitlow - Lot construction; WH ornaments and everything

Barbara Nicastro - Volunteers

Richard Knight - Unloading details and County permits and insurance and lawyer

Brian Kellenberger - First Week Captain and sign man

Andrea Baltatzis - Second Week Captain and security coordinator

Jeff Englander - Third Week Captain and our NEW president

**Bob Patton - Fourth Week Captain**  
**Frank O'Leary - Treasurer**  
**Trisha O'Hara - Publicist**  
**Gerry Marosek - Club Treasurer**  
**Mark Zetlin - Trouble shooter**

**Stay tuned for more tree lot news as we count down to opening day on 11/27!!!**

**Sandy Bushue**  
**202.352.4922**

## **Optimist News in the *Sun Gazette***

**Tricia O'Hara was able to place the following news story in the September 17 edition (page 9) of Arlington's *Sun Gazette*. Way to go, Tricia!!**

OPTIMISTS PLAN CHRISTMAS-TREE SALE: Want another hopeful sign that a degree of normalcy may resume eventually? The Optimist Club of Arlington is planning its traditional Christmas-tree sale. The Optimist Club has been selling trees at the corner of Lee Highway and North Glebe Road for three quarters of a century. The site has been a prime location for banking institutions (Wells Fargo currently occupies it), and despite concerns that the parcel eventually may fall to redevelopment, club members are able to call it their own during the four-week sale. More than a thousand trees are sold each year, ranging in size from 5 to 14 feet tall. The 2020 sale is expected to open on Friday, Nov. 27 at noon. Sales hours will be Mondays to Thursdays from 2 to 8 p.m., Fridays from noon to 8 p.m., weekends from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. until sold out (although the club usually receives a second shipment of trees in early December, if its supplies run low).  
<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d85df45a-d226-4bc2-800c-75a1d56073e2/downloads/Arlington%209-17-20.pdf?ver=1600687471990>

**Also, the September 24 edition of the *Sun Gazette* had a reporter's story of our September 2 luncheon. The text of the article is provided in Appendix 2, below. Thank you, Tricia, for securing this article (with photo), which is in the newspaper at the top of page 7 [for the original, see**

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d85df45a-d226-4bc2-800c-75a1d56073e2/downloads/Arlington%209-24-20.pdf?ver=1600946541398>

**Finally, the Board of the Arlington Optimist Club purchased ads in the *Sun Gazette* celebrating the Scholarship (June 4 edition) and Oratorical (August 13 edition) winners -- with the their photos -- in order to inform the Arlington**

community about the values of our club and where their Christmas tree purchases are going.

## Thank you, Mark Zetlin, for Your Second Term as President of the Arlington Optimist Club!



Mark with Katie Cristol 12-04-1919



With Tricia and Opera Nova 12-04-19



Honoring Larry Gaydos 12-11-19 with Brian Kellenberger and Conley Richer



With Darren Aversa 02-01-2020



Honoring Gerry Marosek 07-16-2020  
(Photo by Greg Clough)



Thanking Rosemary Gibson 09-02-2020  
(Photo by Peter Wehmann)



## Optimists Out & About in September



Tricia O'Hara and Lola Reinsch at a fundraiser in Middleburg, VA. (Photo provided by Tricia).



Mark Whitenton holding his first grandchild, Ayla.



Sue Gartner caught a grub thief tearing up her backyard. (Photo provided by Sue).



JB Whitlow visiting his mother on her 94th birthday! (Photo provided by JB).

## The 2020-2021 Arlington Optimist Board (effective October 1)

**President:** Jeff Englander (automatic)

**President-Elect:** Brian Kellenberger (new)

**Vice President:** Sandy Bushue

**Vice President:** Richard Knight

**Treasurer:** Gerry Marosek

**Secretary:** Debbie Whitenton

**Past-President:** Mark Zetlin (automatic)

**Board of Directors: One Year Left:**

Erin Mendenhall (automatic)

Erica Burson (automatic)

Andreas Baltatzis (automatic)

**New Board Members with two-year terms: \***

JB Whitlow

Mark Whitenton

\* Note that the Board voted unanimously on June 3, 2020 to reduce the number of Directors in each new annual class to two (instead of three) starting on October 1, 2020.



***mw: 117***

***Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005 ;  
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;  
Capital- Virginia District 16;  
Northern Virginia Zone 4  
[www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org](http://www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org)***

# Appendix 1: Draft Christmas Tree Lot Schedule (Sept. 23)



## Tree Lot Calendar 2020

SCHEDULE (as of 8/29/2020)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you need to change your scheduled date and time, it is up to you to find your replacement.

Out of courtesy, please contact the lot captain who is responsible for that week:

11/27-12/4: Brian Kellenberger (kellenbergerb@gmail.com / 703.501.0343); 12/5-12/11: Andreas Balabazds (abalabazds@gmail.com / 703.862.3452); 12/12-12/18: Jeff Englander (Englanderjeffrey@gmail.com / 703.300.3028); 12/19-12/22: Bob Patton (rpattton@hotmail.com / 703.961.3412).

An Optimist Directory has been sent to each Optimist. Please use the directory to help find your replacement.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	BABERUTH 11/29	BABERUTH 11/30	BABERUTH 12/1	BABERUTH 12/2	BABERUTH 12/3	BABERUTH 12/4	BABERUTH 12/5
Captain: Kellenberger	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Gartner/Wehmann	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Burson	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitenton's	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard	Noon - 5:00 p.m. Gartner/Wehmann/ Bushue	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bushue/O'Hara
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD						5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD
	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11	12/12
Captain: Balabazds	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Burson	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bushue	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard	Noon - 5:00 p.m. Bushue	ACORNS ALL DAY/ EVERY SHIFT
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bushue	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD						
	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19
Captain: Englander	ACORNS ALL DAY/ EVERY SHIFT	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitenton's	Noon - 5:00 p.m. TBD	9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD
		5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD
							5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD
	12/20	12/21	12/22				
Captain: Patton	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD				
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD				
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD						

Lot Workers



## **Appendix 2: Article on the Optimist Club of Arlington from *Sun Gazette Newspapers* (Sept 24, page 7)**

### **Optimists Back in Operation with In-Person Meetings**

While many other service organizations across Northern Virginia have curtailed operations or moved to an online only presence due to the public-health situation, the Optimist Club of Arlington is back with in-person meetings. The local club, chartered in 1946 and currently led by President Mark Zetlin, resumed its twice-monthly meetings in July at Washington Golf & Country Club, with appropriate precautions (masks and social-distancing). Among the recent programs was one featuring Arlington resident Rosemary Gibson, author of "China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicine." Her research details the drug supply and manufacturing chain that increasingly has gravitated from the U.S. to China and the quality-control challenges that have resulted. The result has impacted everything from Vitamin C to cancer drugs to birthcontrol pills. Frank O'Leary, the former Arlington County treasurer and a member of the Optimist Club, said the program was an eye-opener. "I was truly amazed and distressed to learn that we and the rest of the world are subject to a monopoly of generic drugs by the People's Republic of China," he said. "This gives a despotic foreign power undue control over our lives and should be a matter of concern to all Americans." The positive view of Gibson's remarks was shared by club member Sue Gartner, who termed it "a great program" and said virtually every member purchased a copy of the book – with one of them reading it in its entirety that night. The Optimist Club is perhaps best known in the Arlington community for its sponsorship of youth sports (although it also has a robust public-speaking competition for youth and supports students in other ways) as well as its annual Christmas-tree sale, which raises money for those programs. That sale is expected to go on as planned this year at its usual spot on the corner of Lee Highway and North Glebe Road, with public-health precautions in place. In addition to Zetlin, 2019-20 Optimist officers include Sandy Bushue and Richard Knight (vice presidents), Debbie Whitenton (secretary) and Gerry Marosek (treasurer). In October, Jeff Englander will succeed Zetlin as president. • • • For information on the Arlington Optimist Club, see the Website at [www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org](http://www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org).