

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

August 31, 2021



August Event

8/25: Meet & Greet.



From left to right: Eric Turner (guest of Sue Gartner), Rob Talley and Aidan McDonough (both guests of Sandy Bushue and both have indicated they are considering joining), Sandy, Erin Mendenhall, Ed Johnson (guest of Sandy) and Brian

Kellenberger. Not in the photo are Sue Gartner and Peter Wehmann (who took and provided this photo).

Upcoming in September

9/01: *Twenty Years Later, Remembering 9/11 and the First Responders* - Cathy Hix, President of the Arlington Historical Society and Reede Bush, a First Responder, who rushed to the Pentagon when the attack occurred, recount the events of that fateful day and how AHS is honoring those who so honorably and bravely served. WGCC at 12:15. As always, we are indebted to Frank O'Leary for our luncheon speakers.

9/15: Respect for Law Luncheon returns! Brian Kellenberger and Erin Mendenhall have partnered to ensure that we are able to continue our historic Respect for Law luncheon this year. PLEASE make every effort to attend this luncheon to honor the Arlington Police and Sheriff's Offices and their awardees. Also, our 2021-2022 Officers and Board members will be sworn in. WGCC at 12:15.

9/22: Meet & Greets continue at Texas Jack's, 5:30 to 7:00. These events are key to increasing our membership, so PLEASE bring a prospective member to enjoy the fellowship of other members.

2021 Christmas Tree Report by Sandy Bushue



Optimists,

Tree Lot season is around the corner.....

The 2021 Tree Lot Committee met last month to begin preparations for the tree lot. 2481 trees have been ordered! We are using the same grower, Sexton Christmas Tree Farm, from Galax, VA.

Barbara Nicastro, who did an amazing job over the years as Volunteer CH, resigned as she has moved to the NJ Shore. Barbara figured out how to get more youth involved with the lot solving the “man power” issue that we experienced for many years. We are going to miss her!!

However, I am happy to announce that Chanda Choun agreed to take the Volunteer CH position for 2021. I am confident Chanda will not disappoint and we are thrilled to have Chanda on the Committee!

I would like to introduce the fabulous and wonderful 2021 Tree Lot Committee:

**Lot Infrastructure/Wreaths/WH Ornaments/Trouble Shooting:
JB Whitlow**

**Lot captains are as follows:
First week - Brian Kellenberger
Second week - Andreas Baltatzis
Third week - Jeff Englander
Fourth week - Bob Patton**

**Coordinating Lot Security:
Andreas Baltatzis**

**Unloading Party CH/AC Permit Guru/Insurance Expert/Counsel
Richard Knight**

**Handling the cash and credit card transactions:
Frank O’Leary**

**Volunteer CH:
Chanda Choun**

**Public Relations:
Trish O’Hara**

These Optimists are exceptional and work very hard to ensure a successful tree lot!

**Note important dates - please mark your calendars:
Building the tree lot - November 19
First tree delivery - November 22 or 23
Opening day - November 26
Second tree delivery - December 8 or 9**

Like last year, Optimists will only work as cashiers! Optimists will not be required to handle the saws or trees or work the lot physically. With Chanda

working on youth volunteers and our sports' teams, we will work to ensure plenty of help for each shift on each day.

A wise and dear member, Sue Gartner, said that the Optimist Tree Lot has become bigger than the Optimists. It is a Arlington County institution as so many of our customers have been buying trees from us for decades. Let's work to ensure 2021 carries on that tradition!

Optimistically,

Sandra Bushue
sandy.bushue@gmail.com

President's Message by Jeff Englander

Giving your time to help others is truly rewarding.

Within hours before our August Happy Hour was to begin, I received the call to help out on a mission at the local VFW. Donations were being accepted by the veterans for the refugees of the Afghanistan war. Clothing, toys, food and other items were coming in faster than the small staff could handle. Twenty volunteers arrived to sort and pack the donations in boxes for shipment. After two six-hour shifts, we packed an 18-wheel tractor trailer to its capacity. It felt great that so many people took the time to donate and that I am thankful we had the volunteers to pack and load the truck. Many refugees will benefit from this effort.

The Optimist Tree Committee, under the direction of Sandy Bushue, is working hard to prepare for our big event. The first day of sales is November 26th. With 2500 trees to sell, we need everyone to help out. Thank you for volunteering.

We have two great luncheons this month honoring those who serve us -- our first responders. Wednesday, we will have firsthand accounts from the scene at the Pentagon on 9/11. On September 15th, we will have our Respect for Law Day honoring our law enforcement officers. Please attend.

If you have an idea on how our Club can celebrate our 75th birthday on December 12th, please let me know.

The Club is always seeking new members. Please invite guests to our luncheons and Happy Hours. Thank you.

Have a great Fall season.

Optimistically yours,

Jeff

Frank O'Leary Receiving Well-deserved Award



Frank O'Leary and Jim Pebley pose in World War I-era helmets at the June 28, 2018, Arlington Historical Society commemoration of the county's participation in the war. (Photo by Peter F. Wehmann)

As printed in the *Sun Gazette* on August 18, 2021: The Arlington Historical Society has announced that former county Treasurer Frank O'Leary will be presented with the Cornelia B. Rose Award for his services to the organization and to the study of local history.

The award will be presented at the society's annual dinner, to be held on Thursday, Sept. 9 at Washington Golf & Country Club.

Inaugurated in 2014, the award is named in honor of Cornelia Rose (1907-76), an historian and author of the seminal book "Arlington County, Virginia: A History." It is presented annually to an individual or organization.

What is a Win Worth? A Thoughtful Reflection submitted by Clayton Depue

Kenyan runner Abel Mutai was only a few meters from the finish line but got confused by the signs and stopped, believing he had finished the race.

The Spaniard Ivan Fernandez was right behind him and when he saw what was going on, he called to the Kenyan to keep walking.

Mutai couldn't or understand Spanish. Fernandez saw what was going on and pushed Mutai to victory.

A reporter asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?"

Ivan replied: "My dream is that one day we can have a kind of community life in which we can make ourselves and others win."

The reporter continued: "But why did you let the Kenyan win?"

Ivan replied: "I didn't let him win, he won. The race was his."

The reporter insisted and asked again, "But you could have won!"

Ivan looked at him and replied: "But what would my victory be? What would the honor of this medal be? What would my mother think of it?"

The values are passed on from generation to generation. What values do we impart to our children? Most of us take advantage of people's weaknesses instead of strengthening them. "

Fun Summer Photos submitted by our members



Andreas Baltatzis and family visiting Chicago.



Frank O'Leary's granddaughter, Brianna Moore, at Monticello.



Richard Knight & Linda at Wolfrap with daughter Pam and her friend, Sharon, to see "The Princess Bride".



Mark & Debbie Whitenton at the Biltmore in Asheville, N.C. (in front of the right wing).



Sue Gartner & Peter Wehmann
Celebrate Sue's birthday in July.



Debbie & Mark Whitenton posing in front of
Waiau Stream falls near Hilo, Hawaii.



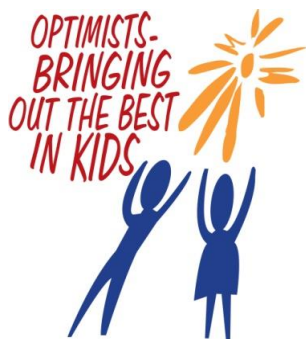
Clayton Depue grows beard!



Fawns in Clayton's front yard.



Peter Wehmann and Sue Gartner at a favorite Afghan restaurant, ARACOSIA McLean.



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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