



**OPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Friend of Youth*

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**Club meets**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**

**At 11:45 am**

**Mullins Restaurant**

**Huntsville, AL**

**Our business meeting**

**is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Thursday of the**

**month at the Optimist**

**Recreation Center on**

**Oakwood Ave**

# Opti - Topics

## Opening

Twenty-two Optimists and four guests (in addition to our speaker) attended our Club meeting at Mullins Restaurant today--another unseasonably cold day (they seem to always come on Thursdays!). Our guests today were Angie Inman, wife of John; Betty Kellogg, wife of the late Chev Kellogg; and Jeffery and Angela Shields, parents of today's speaker. President George asked Rev. Jim Berry to give the invocation and to lead the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was good to see Bill Peters and Jim Roe back with us, and thanks to Jeff Sandridge, Sidney Sandridge was also able to be with us today.

Food service was much improved this week. Our server, Michelle, began taking orders as soon as people arrived, and these meals were brought out as soon as they were ready. Those who ordered special meals off the menu were served somewhat later, so Duane Plank's hamburger steak didn't come until our speaker had begun his talk—perhaps a good reason to order from the daily lunch menu.

## “Optimist Family” News

❖ Al Renz reported that seven Optimists had attended the memorial service for Chev Kellogg last Saturday, and that Duane Plank had given one of the eulogies. He thanked Betty Kellogg for joining us today. Al also related two special memories he has of our work with the community's youth.

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❖ Al also reported that he had received a letter this week from Nashville that contained a check for \$500 as a memorial for late member Chev Kellogg. The lady who sent the check had once worked with Betty Kellogg as a guidance counselor at Butler High School, and knew of some of our youth programs (e.g. the Band Instrument program) that helped underprivileged youth. Al responded to her with a standing invitation to join us at one of our luncheon meetings.

❖ Duane Plank shared an idea he had where some of the success stories, similar to those just related by Al Renz, be documented so they could be shared with others. He said there are many of them, and they are well worth documenting to help inspire others. He said there is “nothing better” than success in helping youth.

## Program



❖ President George McDonough called on February Program Chairman Jim Berry to introduce today’s speaker, Jonathan Shields.

❖ Jim said he had attended the Martin Luther King Breakfast earlier this month, and the wrap-up talk at that occasion was an elegant and inspirational talk given by our speaker. Jonathan is a senior at Buckhorn High School, and is president of the Student Government Association there. He has been on the A Honor Roll since fifth grade. He plans to attend the University of Alabama in Huntsville and major in Computer Science.

Jonathan flawlessly delivered his talk without reading or resorting to his notes. He began by thanking the Club for inviting him, and said he was honored to speak again about Martin Luther King's role in bringing civil rights to all Americans 50 years ago. He said although he wasn't born when Dr. King was alive, he is enjoying the benefits of civil rights earned by the high price and sacrifice of Dr. King.

Jonathan quoted a passage from one of Dr. King's speeches wherein Dr. King used the images of (1) a chart, (2) a compass, and (3) the North Star. He then explained that the *chart* gives us data points on the rights already earned by civil rights activists; the *compass* gives us direction for making the best use of these rights—especially through getting the best education possible—and the *North Star* that shows us the right direction to travel using high morals, integrity, good manners, and the wheels of justice.

The Club gave Jonathan a standing ovation, and he was encouraged to participate in our upcoming oratorical contest.

## **Closing**

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, and gave him a coaster with the Optimist Creed on it. After drawing three names (Milt Williams, Jim Pepper, and Bob Martin) of non-attendees, Jonathan said he felt like he wasn't doing a good job, but the attendees disagreed and encouraged him to keep on drawing. Bill Peters' was the next name drawn, and he took home the attendance prize.

Dr. Carl Winkler closed the meeting by leading us in the reciting the Optimist Creed.

*Clyde Nevins*

## **Optimistic Quote of the Week**

When our days become dreary with low hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.

*~Martin Luther King Jr -*

# - PHOTOS -



**Our Speaker - Jonathan Shields**



**Jeffery, Angela, and Jonathan Shields**



**Betty Kellogg**



**Angie Inman and Gay Pepper**

## CALENDAR

3/4 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

3/6 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

**Speaker - Tom Howell – District Governor Elect**

3/13 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

**Speaker – Rick Owens**

3/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Al Renz)**

3/27 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant

**Barney Heyward – Financial Advisor**

4/1 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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**TO:**