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Club meets

1st, 2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

**Mullins Restaurant
Huntsville, AL**

**Our business meeting
is held on the 3rd
Thursday of the
month at the Optimist
Recreation Center on
Oakwood Ave**

Opti - Topics

Opening

The Optimist Club of Huntsville held its regularly scheduled meeting at Mullins Restaurant today in the wake of a morning with some sizeable thunderstorms. After a few stragglers arrived, we eventually had 18 members and 2 guests. Our guests today were Nell Berry, wife of Jim, and Matt Clarke, son of Bill.

President George McDonough opened the meeting after a slight equipment malfunction—he hit his thumb that was holding the bell—but on the second try he achieved a nice, clear gong. He asked Jesse Lang to bring the invocation and John Inman to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

George remarked that earlier this morning he had seen a lightning flash and heard the sound at the same instant, and was wondering if God was after him. First, he called for any necessary announcements.

Announcements



Al Renz announced that the Club's annual picnic had been scheduled for August 9 at the Ford's Chapel UMC's pavilion in Harvest. The picnic was held there last year, and it was a rousing success. Al said that help would be needed to move the tables and chairs from the main building to the pavilion, and then return them after the picnic. See him between now and Aug. 9 to volunteer for this duty.

Program



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President George asked Program Chairman Jim Berry to introduce our speaker for today. Jim introduced Ms. Paulette Haywood Ogard, the author of the book *Butterflies of Alabama, Glimpses into Their Lives*. Ms. Ogard received her degree in social work, and was a social worker in Huntsville where she worked at Butler Terrace. She had driven to Huntsville from Birmingham this morning to be with us.

Ms. Ogard related how she and her friend Sara Bright, a photographer, had become interested in Alabama's butterflies some 20 years ago. They wanted to learn more than just their names, but also how they lived. After spending several years investigating and photographing them, they took their material to the University of Alabama Press, and her book was the result. She had several signed copies available for purchase (at \$25 each), and the book is available in book stores and on Amazon.com.

She began her talk by a description of a butterfly. A butterfly is an insect, a cold-blooded bug. Its body has three parts, a head, thorax and abdomen, plus wings. Butterfly species have distinct peculiarities besides the many varieties of coloring. Each specie has a particular host plant that the larva feeds upon (but there is also one that is carnivorous and feeds on aphids), often with coloring that enables it to escape predators. They are pollinators, with some plants relying totally on a butterfly for pollination.

There are four stages of life: (1) an egg (varying greatly in shape, size and coloring); (2) a caterpillar (larva) where it eats prodigious amounts of food; (3) a chrysalis; and (4) the butterfly. During these stages, besides eating and pooping (her word) the butterfly uses a number of ways to keep from being eaten by a bird, a wasp, a praying mantis or an ant.

Among these ways are:

- ❖ Hiding by wrapping itself in a leaf or boring into a blossom
- ❖ Camouflaging itself to look like the plant they are inhabiting
- ❖ Camouflaging itself to look like something very unappetizing (e.g., bird poop)
- ❖ Camouflaging itself to mimic something larger and more ferocious
- ❖ Emitting a pungent or malodorous chemical
- ❖ Being poisonous, or colored to look like a poisonous specie

Alabama has 85 species of butterflies, and the State Insect is the monarch butterfly. Ms. Ogard closed her talk by giving a brief description of the annual migration of monarch butterflies that move from Canada to Mexico and back.

In the Q & A section, Ms. Ogard responded to the first question saying that the average life of a butterfly depends upon many factors, and ranges from a few days to a few months depending on the specie and the time of the year. In response to another question, she said that butterflies do not sting people (but at least one species can give you an unpleasant odor). Finally, she said that if you want butterflies around your lot or farm you need to have an array of native plants. Manicured turf grasses will never attract a butterfly.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked our speaker, presented her a coaster with our Optimist Creed, and asked her to draw the name for our attendance prize. The first name drawn was Fabiani Duarte, and the second name was yours truly, who spent it all plus some more to buy one of Ms. Ogard's books.

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

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“We are all butterflies. Earth is our chrysalis.”

~ LeeAnn Taylor

CALENDAR

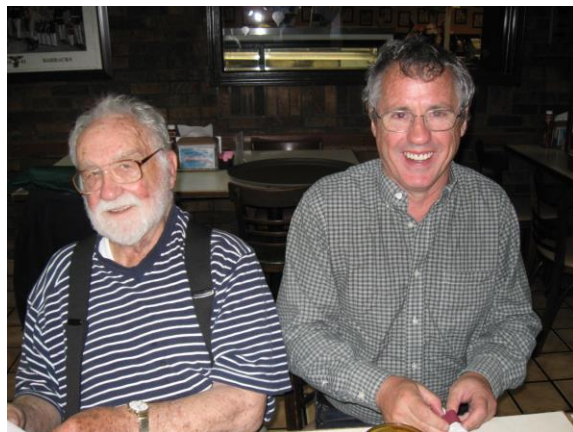
- 6/12 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD
- 6/19 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 6/26 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
Joe Connoughton
World Wars II Pictures of Invasion of France
- 7/3 **NO MEETING**
Independence Day
- 7/8 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting
- 7/10 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD – Gay Pepper
- 7/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Jim Berry)
- 7/24 Thursday 11:45 am Mullins Restaurant
TBD– Gay Pepper
- 7/31 **NO MEETING**
5th Thursday



Our Speaker, Ms. Pauletter Haywood Ogard with her book.



Guest Nell Berry



Guest Matt Clarke with his pop, Bill Clarke

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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

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

To 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: