



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Friend of Youth

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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 assembled for a regular meeting at Mullins Restaurant, today. Nineteen Optimists and three guests were in attendance. Our guests were Nita & Bill Peters, wife and son of Optimist Bill Peters, and Dr. Alejandro Chu, guest of Richie Myers. Dr. Chu was born in China and lived in Uruguay prior to getting his citizenship in the U. S.

President George McDonough asked Al Adams to open the meeting in prayer, followed by Duane Plank leading the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

President George reported that there are still four openings for **monthly program chairpersons** and business meeting lunch providers. A list was passed around at the meeting for signing up for these.

Also passed around was a sheet for signing up for our Club's **Installation Banquet** on Thursday, September 25. The banquet will be held in our meeting room in the Optimist Recreation Center and will begin at 6:30 p. m.

Program



Apollo Mission Control Center, Oct. 11, 1968

President George McDonough introduced our speaker for today's meeting, our own Optimist Bill Peters. Bill had a long career in the Space industry, having served in

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leadership roles in program management and contracting, and with both NASA and NASA contractors.

Bill's talk today centered on his career at Johnson Space Center; specifically about his work at the Mission Control Center there. He had recently done research on the internet to provide photos and diagrams of the Mission Control Center for his PowerPoint talk. Bill, with hair, appeared in almost every photo since his console was located towards the front and in the center of the Mission Control Center. He manned his console for both the Gemini and Apollo programs while there.

Bill's most memorable mission was 44 years ago when the Apollo XIII mission suffered an in-flight failure when at 199,990 miles from earth on the way to the Moon. He had just left his shift to go home when the explosion of an oxygen tank on the Apollo Service Module lit up all the event lights on the consoles. He said he was away from his console only long enough to miss the famous message from Apollo XIII, "Houston, we have a problem."

Bill described the heroic efforts that were needed to provide solutions for getting the three Apollo XIII astronauts back to Earth safely. There were stiff challenges in providing the necessary electrical power, a life-supporting atmosphere and an accurate means of navigation. Using the Lunar Module as a "lifeboat," NASA engineers perfected work-arounds that were implemented by the astronauts during the 4-day ordeal that ended the aborted mission without loss of life.

The entire Mission Operations Team received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Nixon, and each person received a certificate with the citation describing their outstanding performance.

Bill said the movie, *Apollo 13*, is a fairly accurate depiction of the events of the mission, and he recommended it. He brought a show-and-tell box of Lunar Module parts and some flags that had been to the Moon and back for viewing after his talk had concluded.

Closing

President George McDonough thanked Bill for his informative talk, saying he had learned some things about Apollo XIII. He considers it one of the great adventures of all time. He said that there were many people omitted in the History's account of Space missions that deserved recognition.

George gave the Bill our traditional speaker's gift of an Optimist Creed printed on a tile. Bill said (with tongue in cheek?) he's been wanting one of them. Bill also drew a name for the attendance prize. Sidney Sandridge was the first name drawn but he was absent today. Buddy Beck was the next one drawn, and he took home the pot.

John Shirey asked Bill to draw an additional name for a special attendance prize, an Optimist license plate. Richie Myers won this one.

Dr. Carl Winkler led us in the reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

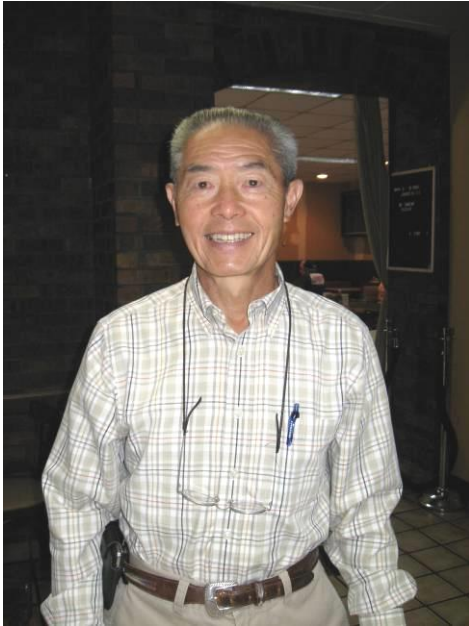
Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars, and see yourself running with them."

~Marcus Aurelius

Calendar

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|------|--|----------------------------|
| 9/9 | Tuesday 4:00 pm | 1st Commercial Bank |
| 9/11 | Thursday 11:45 am | Mullins Restaurant |
| | TBD – Bill Peters | |
| 9/18 | Thursday 11:45 am | Optimist Recreation Center |
| | Business Meeting - Food – (Bill Peters) | |
| 9/25 | Thursday 6:30 pm | Optimist Recreation Center |
| | Officer Installation Banquet | |

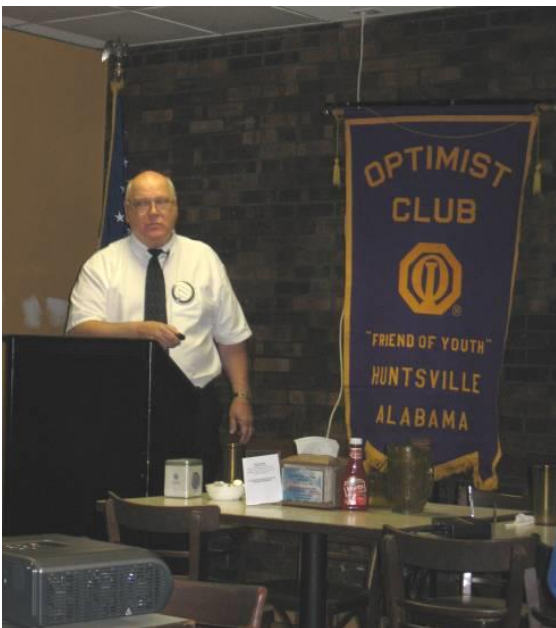
- PHOTOS -



Dr. Alejandro Chu



Our server, Michelle, takes Jesse Lang's order



Our Speaker, Bill Peters



Nita & Bill Peters

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.

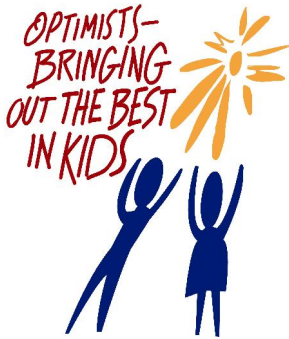
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

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: