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Club meets

1st Thursday

At 6:00 pm

2nd, & 4th Thursdays

At 11:45 am

88 Buffet

Opti - Topics

August – Evening Meeting

A somewhat better turnout of 11 Optimists assembled at the 88 Buffet today for our regularly scheduled evening meeting. We had one guest, Jesse Lang's daughter, Portia. Jesse said he had fired his former chauffeur, Pat (his wife), and was trying out a new one.

Opening

President Al Adams called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer and then Al led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Reminder. For the foreseeable future, our three luncheon meetings in the month will be at the Optimist Recreation Center. The Club voted to

quit 88 Buffet for luncheon meetings, but for now we will still have our evening meetings there. Gay Pepper's committee is still looking for a place that can serve us lunch for a reasonable price and without a guaranteed number, but don't get your hopes up.



President Al Adams announced that the **Alabama-Mississippi District Meeting** will be at the Birmingham Hilton on **August 26 to August 28**. Al is to be installed as the Lieutenant Governor for

our Zone at this meeting, and the Club should try to support this meeting for that, if for no other reason.

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

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There's still time to bring your donation of **school supplies for Morris Elementary School** today. School has already started, and more school supplies are needed. Try to bring them at next week's meeting. **George McDonough** will collect them and will deliver them to Morris Elementary. I think it's one of his favorite things to do in the Club.



The date for the **Club's annual picnic** has been set for **September 10**. As in the past couple of years, the picnic will be held at the pavilion of the Fords Chapel UMC in Harvest. The picnic will start at 2 p. m. and be over around 6 p. m. The picnic will have a "pot luck" menu with the Club furnishing the meat and drinks, and Club members furnishing sides and deserts. **Get your name on a sign-up sheet that Al Renz is passing around.**



Alberto Duarte reported that the Club had purchased three keyboards (with stands) and an electronic drum set from the Guitar Center. These will be donated formally to the Hawthorne Conservatory **in memory of Optimist Duane Plank** as soon as Ms. Tiffany can arrange a mutually suitable date with the Club. Tom Casteel is getting some engraved brass plates to put on the instrument cases.



Band Committee chairman, Tom Casteel, reported that all the Club's instruments have been refurbished and are now in the storage room ready for distribution. He asked that no school be given more than 2 saxophones because of the small number of those. Also, the percussion instruments are in short supply because of damage to several of them last year. Damaged instruments are red tagged and should not be given out.

Program



Tom Casteel introduced our speaker for the evening, **Fran Fluhler** (that's a German/Swiss name, she told me), **Director of Manna House**. Manna House has been a 501(c)3 organization for 11 years, and was incorporated with three purposes: to provide food, clothing and hygiene supplies to needy people. The organization has expanded greatly in both scope and area served since then. Ms. Fluhler said she was honored to be at our meeting, and said she knew Gay and Portia. She also said how she has appreciated Fabiani Duarte coming by to volunteer and bringing many others with him over the years.

Ms. Fluhler gave an emotional talk that enumerated the many people in Huntsville and surrounding area that are in need of the basic necessities of life. She gave a short sketch of each of the programs Manna House provides to serve these people, and here is what I was able to copy:

- Manna House feeds evening meals at their main location to as many as 1,800 families. This takes as many as 22 to 25 pallets of food. She said the lowest number of families served was on Christmas Eve when "only 452 families" were fed.
- Manna House provides basic sanitary needs such as soap, toilet paper, diapers (both adult and baby) and baby wipes.
- Manna House planted "God's Garden," a 6-acre garden that provides many fresh vegetables (she mentioned cucumbers, radishes, green beans, okra, corn, squash, eggplant, potatoes, and tomatoes) without chemicals so that people on chemotherapy can eat them.
- Manna House has "outstations" in New Market, Lacy Springs and Harvest where one or more meals per week are served. In Harvest, for example, it's breakfast.
- Manna House has a pet feeding program, too. People's pets need food, and some pets provide necessary emotional support.
- Manna House has a free Thanksgiving meal every year. These meals are cooked and served at Southside Baptist Church; 600 ate this meal last year.

- Manna House provides a “Personal Emergency Resource Pack” for kids. Each bag has kid-friendly, ready-to-eat food items for Friday night and the weekend. Last year over 43,600 such bags were provided.
- Manna House delivers 40 to 50 hot meals in the evening, similar to the Meals on Wheels program.

All this is done by volunteers and by donations of individuals, grants, and businesses. **Manna House has no paid staff.** Ms. Fluhler said **volunteers are always needed** and appreciated. Manna House is located at 2110 South Memorial Parkway. That’s on the west side of the Parkway, directly behind the El Palacio Mexican restaurant. (enter by way of the parking lot in front of The Rock Family Worship Center). See satellite view in photo section. Volunteers need not sign up, and may come for as short a time as one-half hour. The Manna House web site is: www.mymannahouse.com.

Someone asked how Huntsville compares to other cities in giving to those in need. Ms. Fluhler replied, “This is the most generous city you could ever live in.”

Closing

As he closed the meeting, President Al said that in all his years of being in the Optimist Club, this was the first time he felt like crying when hearing a speaker at our meetings. He gave Ms. Fluhler a tile with the Optimist Creed on it, and asked her to draw for our attendance prize. After several missed out, Jesse Lang took home the money. Clyde Nevins led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting

Clyde Nevins

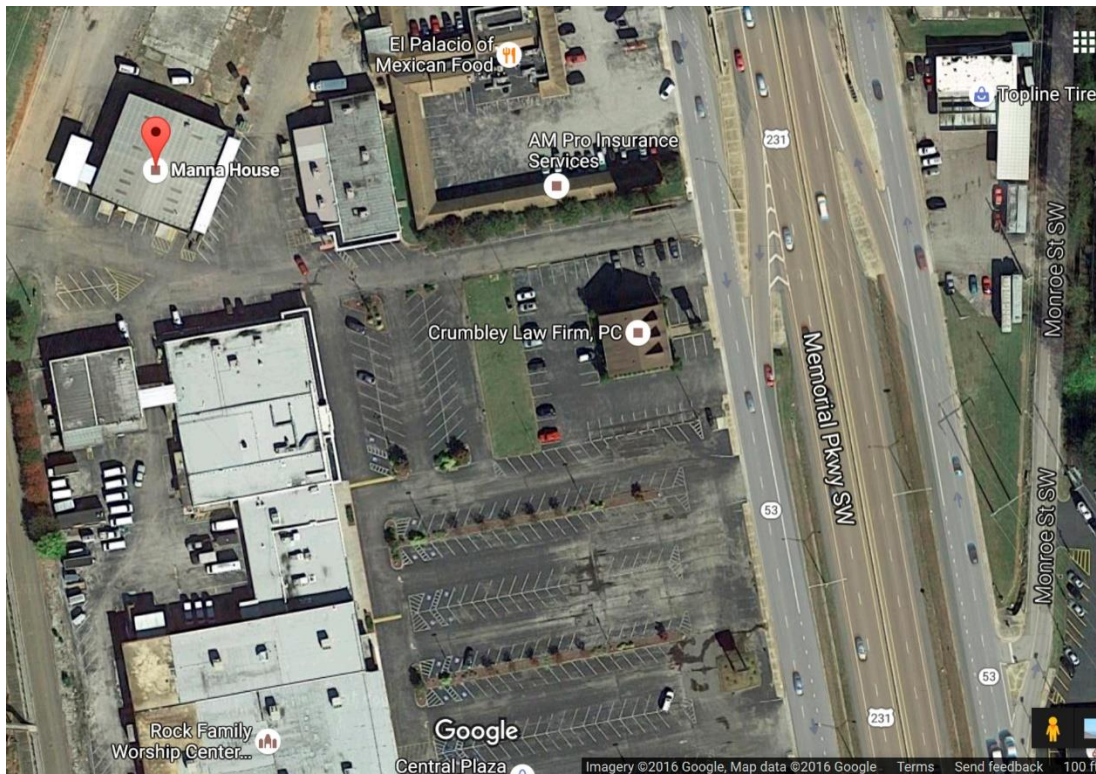
Optimistic Quote of the Week

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi



**Ms. Fran Fluhler, Director of Manna House
Our Speaker for The Evening**



Map Showing Location of the Manna House Facility

CALENDAR

- 8/11 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Angela Walker – Huntsville Community Drumline
- 8/18 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)
- 8/25 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Kathy Miller – United Way
- 9/1 Thursday **6:00 pm** 88 Buffet
George McDonough– TBD
- 9/6 Tuesday **4:00 pm**
1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 9/8 Thursday
No Meeting – Replaced by Club Picnic
- 9/10 **Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 pm**
Ford’s Chapel Pavilion
Annual Club Picnic
- 9/15 Thursday **11:45 am** Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (George McDonough)
- 9/23 **Friday 6:00 pm** Optimist Recreation Center
Officer Installation Banquet – Governor Pam Black
- 9/29 Thursday
No Meeting – 5th Thursday

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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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: