

Central Fairfax Optimist

By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids.



March 2016
Volume 6, Issue 1

Central Fairfax Optimist Club P.O. Box 1271 Fairfax, VA 22038
Meeting at the American Legion 3939 Oak St. Fairfax 7:00P.M. 4th Tuesday each Month



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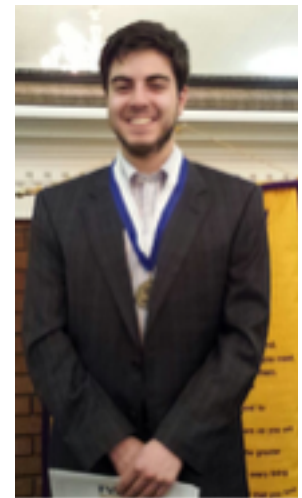
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Sam Kurdi Wins Club Essay Contest!

Sam Kurdi is a junior at Fairfax High School. His dream in life is to get a medical degree and go back to his homeland to help those who don't have access to quality healthcare. To prepare for this goal, his hobbies are doing scholarships to help pay for medical school, long distance running to stay in good condition, and traveling the world.

When not studying, he can be found with friends or playing video games with his younger brother. His mother and father are very supportive of his dream and his sister, Stran, helps him stay grounded and down-to-earth. Sam says "My little brother is very cute and I like to play with him when I can."



Sam and his sister, Stran, are working very diligently to establish a JOOI Club at Fairfax High School.

Sam will compete at district for a \$2,500 scholarship from Optimist International. To read Sam's essay, go to page 8.

Hot Dates & Deadlines

Honoring Our Heroes: starts **March 1st**.

CAPVA District Meeting: Room reservations are due by **March 11th** to receive the \$99.00 room rate.

Zone Oratorical Contest: **March 12th**.

MidAtlantic Conference: **March 16th** for registration.

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President's Points

Fellow Optimists,

I want to use my notes this month to make a shameless plug for our upcoming Trivia Night fund raiser on April 16th.

We've now done five of these events and are getting pretty good at them. A measure of that is that when those who came to play leave at the end of the night, they're smiling, happy, often have prizes in hand, and ask us to be sure and let them know when the next Trivia Night is going to be held.

So it's time to do exactly that. We have room for improvement in the number of people we have in attendance at our Trivia Nights, and the time to start working on it is now.

Here's my challenge to each of you: Think of the groups you belong to and the friends you have. Ask them to build a challenge table.

So, for example, if you attend church, don't be shy about asking your Sunday School, Bible Study, or Prayer Group members to come and play Trivia with us.

Challenge the Bible Study members to take on the Prayer Group. To those of you who might attend St. Stephen's where our event is being held, I'd ask you to extend a special invitation to them. Emphasize that because we don't sell alcohol, we're uniquely suited to be a church group social function.

(continued on page 4)



What's going on?

March Attractions

- 2** – Inter-Service Club Council
- 4** – News articles due
- 5** – Club Oratorical Contest @ Lord of Life church
- 5** – District CCDHH contest Springfield Government Center 6140 Rolling Rd.
- 8** – Club Board meeting; everyone is invited; 7PM; Angie's
- 11** – Deadline for hotel reservations for the CAPVA District conference & oratorical contest
- 12** – Zone Oratorical Contest
- 19** – Mid-Atlantic Optimism Summit and Regional Conference 8:30AM-4:30PM Hotel Richmond Downtown 501 East Broad St. Richmond
- 22** – Club dinner meeting 7PM American Legion 3939 Oak Street (Oratorical Contest winners)

April Attractions

- 2** – District Oratorical Contest
- 6** – Inter-Service Club Council
- 8** – News articles due
- 12** – Club Board meeting; everyone is invited; 7PM; Angie's
- 16** – Trivia Night 6PM St. Stephen's Methodist Church 9203 Braddock Road
- 26** – Club dinner meeting 7PM American Legion 3939 Oak Street (Youth Appreciation - Mountain View HS)

March

Birthdays

11th Stephanie Carey
19th Susan Bond

Anniversaries

6th Tony & Mary DiGregorio

April

Birthdays

7th Betsy Michel
17th Kim Moden
19th Norm Buchanan
25th Marty Kaiser

Anniversaries

22nd Tom and Trinket Troy
26th Norm and Jennifer Buchanan



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.

Christian D. Larsen

CAPVA District Meeting

The third quarter district meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA (Richmond) on April 1st and 2nd. **Room reservations are due by March 11th to receive the \$99.00 room rate.** I will have a reservation forms with me at the dinner on Tuesday evening.

You may **take Amtrak** from Alexandria to Richmond for as little as \$23 one way. If you want to take the train, let Governor Terry Corle know your arrival time (contact info on page 1) and transportation will be provided from Staples Mill Station to the hotel.

Sounds like a fun way to go!

Plan on attending this meeting and show your support for the Oratorical contest Zone winners. This year's contest has an added attraction of a \$15,000 scholarship offered by OI and the University of St. Louis. Regional winners will compete in a World Oratorical Contest to be held in June.

Make your hotel reservations NOW for the 98th Annual Optimist International Convention on June 30 thru July 2, 2016 in downtown Quebec City. the convention is at the Quebec City Convention Centre, within walking distance of the main hotel, Hilton Quebec and. The Hilton Quebec is surrounded by some of the city's most memorable sightseeing and is only 25 minutes from the Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport.

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Success has a bank.

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Thanks for your
continued
support!





Club News

President's Points (continued)

To those of you who work at local colleges and schools, challenge your fellow employees to join us. Put flyers up in the faculty lounge and Student Union. When you come into contact with students, give them a flyer and invite them to come. Remind them that all proceeds go to help young people.

To those of you in volunteer groups, invite your fellow group members. Volunteers are usually willing to help out other groups. Remind them that our Optimist Club is also willing to try to support their group when they ask for a hand. Let's not be shy about partnering with area groups. The Inter-Service Club Council is a great place to promote our event. I'm sure the Bridge Club would get a kick out of beating the Harley Club at Trivia.

For those of you in veterans groups, challenge the enlisted members to put together a table against the officers. Or challenge the loggies to put together a table against the combat arms guys, or the Army versus the Navy. Heck, the Army might actually have a chance to beat the Navy in a good game of Trivia!

My point is, let's expand our invitations beyond our close circle of family and friends and see if we can't increase our turnout for our upcoming Trivia Night.

April 16th is coming upon us fast. The time to ask is now.

Thank you all for everything you do!

Ann Scott

Club President

Don't forget to print the Trivia Night flyer on the next page and use it to recruit people to come!



Trivia Night

**A Fun(d) raiser for KIDS hosted by the
Optimist Club of Central Fairfax**

Saturday, April 16, 2016

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(Doors open at 6 p.m.)

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

9203 Braddock Road

Burke, VA 22015

TICKETS - \$15

(to help us plan, please buy in advance)

Questions: Anava Grabowski 540-341-8203

Food and Beverages Available

Raffles and Prizes!!!!!!

No Children under the age of 12

**DIRECTIONS: From the Beltway, take Braddock Road west, past
Kings Park Shopping Center. Church is on the left.**

**From Route 123: Braddock Road east past Guinea Road.
Church is on the right.**

**DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND.**



Club News (continued)

CCDHH Contest was Great!

Mother Nature finally cooperated and the CCDHH contest was held February 17th at Frost Intermediate School. There were ten very good contestants and a young girl young boy were selected to represent our club in the District Contest which will be held on March 5th at the Springfield Government Center on Rolling Road.

Thanks to the help of the following the contest went off very well: Michele and Dave Hanson, and Kim Modern were our judges and that was not an easy task but they did a terrific job. Art Jones was the time keeper and helper getting things set up and presenting the awards. Dave Griffith, the District CCDHH chair and Terry Corle, the District Governor, were there to give support to the students. Really want to thank Terry for coming because he has not been feeling very well for the last few days. Many thanks to you all!!!!

It is always such a great feeling to give students a chance to speak out and express their passions and ideas.

Anne Grabowski



Above: Luis Pinto and Rose Millett, winners of the District CCDHH contest.

Below: Capital Virginia District Governor Terry Corle and our own Zone 4 Lieutenant Governor Anne Grabowski



News Flash!! District CCDHH Winners Announced!!

Boys ... Luis Pinto, Canterbury Elementary School, sponsored by Greater Vienna

Girls Rose Millett, Frost Middle School, sponsored by Central Fairfax



Club News (continued)

Coal Fire Was Fun!!

Nine members really enjoyed the Eat-Out Fundraiser Feb. 29 at Coal Fire in Rolling Valley Mall. It was a fun activity with good food.

Proceeds of about \$50 are expected. We may do more of these, and are looking for good places offering at least 20% of proceeds to the club. Monday 4/4 or 4/11 are possible dates.

We will still try to incorporate a NOW Nite into these, introducing Optimism to prospective members in a relaxed atmosphere. The American Legion was suggested as a possible location for an "impromptu" happy hour.

Club Oratorical Contest Winners Go To Zone

From Anne Grabowski:

We had a successful Club Oratorical Contest on Saturday and many thanks to Dave Gundry, Peter Drake, Art Jones, Ann Scott, Dave Hanson, Judy and Tim Wallace, Barb Williams, and Brian Rushforth for helping to conduct the contest. Taking time from their busy weekends is greatly appreciated and I can not thank them enough.

Four boys and one girl participated in our Club's contest. Stran Kurdi is the girl winner, and Rohan Bhinge is the boy winner. They and their families will be at the March 22nd dinner. The Zone contest is Saturday, March 12th at the West Springfield Governmental Center on Rolling Road. The speeches will begin at 1:30 and last until about 4-4:30. Everyone should be there by 1 p.m.

JOOI Update

We are almost there!

Sam and Stran Kurdi, co-Presidents of our almost-Octagon Club at Fairfax High School, are completing the necessary paperwork to charter the club with Optimist International.

Optimistically, we will have much more news in next month's newsletter!!





Winning Club Essay by Sam Kurdi

“Lead By Example: Reality or Fiction”

In times of crisis or stress, people follow the backs of the greater people before them. Dr. King followed the back of his father, the minister, and the whole of America followed him as he forged the path to equal rights for all. Lincoln followed the backs of Washington, Jefferson, Mason, and Monroe as he held together a Union by sheer force of will and America followed him in making the leap to unity and brotherhood. A person can often be defined by how others portray their backs and showing a good example of a back is the most real reality of our world today, shaping politics, inspiring activists and leaders to create their own difference.

In leading by example I have my own story, starting, as they so often do, in an Algebra 2 math classroom. I was never very good at math, making good marks only in the lowest levels of the subject. Despite this, I enjoyed my time learning and always tried to learn by teaching others. As a result, I came to be known as an unofficial assistant teacher, answering and demonstrating questions to the best of my ability. No sooner had I gotten used to my new station in life, a cataclysm in the guise of an innocent question came to ravage my complacence and more or less define my existence for the next week or so: Would I become a math tutor?

Would I? The words bashed me on the head when I least expected it. They careened, ricocheted, whirled in my head and refused to let go. Was I ready to become a leader in full? Had I the wherewithal and patience a teacher must carry? Tutoring was very different from simply answering questions in class; it required weeks, years, maybe decades of dedicated study before one could call oneself a master in full... Or was it? Should I take this opportunity to grow and learn, especially considering I had my own experience, insignificant in my mind as it was? Again and again, unrelenting, unquenchable, unyielding came the blows. Would I? Can I? *Must* I? Slowly, gradually, haltingly, the lunges became parries and, as if emerging from a chrysalis and spreading its wings to the light, an answer was born: You don't need a reason to help people.

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Winning Club Essay by Sam Kurdi (continued)

I was under the impression that I came to this realization by myself, that I had it in me all along, that I knew the answer from the moment I asked the question but I did not. Only with the help and guidance of Dr. King, President Lincoln and anyone else who has done a selfless act did I find my answer. In my time of need, I looked to those paragons of virtue but the need for strong backs to look to only heightens when one looks to current events. In a war-torn region held together by strings, men follow the back of the Islamic State and go to war to destroy countries they have never seen. Children are slaughtered, cultures are subjugated because a power decided to make an example, to lead their cause. Just as great power leads to great responsibility, great power can just as easily beget insurgency and extremism. Instead of meeting subjugation with subjugation, instead of fighting fire with fire, hostility should be met with the kind of leadership that invokes peace and prosperity. Having the right back to look to is much more important than simply having a back to look to.

Leadership is not only for want away from home. In eight months I, along with countless other men and women, will be choosing who to follow, which back to look to, whose leadership will bring peace where there was none. The United States needs strong leadership just as much, if not more than other countries because the Middle East needs a back; Syria needs a back; the world needs a back. With this election, a world leader will be chosen because America is the prime example of leading by example. With this 2016 election, we don't just choose a leader, we choose the leader. The one who will lead the world to alleviate global warming, bring terrorists to justice and lead by their example.

There is no lack of leaders in the world; far from it. What is lacking is true leadership; the ability to unite, to accept, to progress and to present a back that others will look to.