



The S O C - K E T

Bringing
Out
The Best
In
Children

The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem
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Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at Willson House
(check out our website at www.optimistclubofsalemor.org)

2007-08 Club Officers

President: John Chamberlain
 President-Designate: TBA
 Immediate Past-President: Bruce Gilbertson
 Secretary/Treasurer: Arlen Hollinshead
 Directors: John Day, Paul Negstad, Frank Masser,
 Dave Sevall, Vern Tabery, Dave Wiley



This gentleman is Dr. James (Jim) P. Randolph, O.D. He has been a resident of Salem since 1989, but his story today was of the year he spent in Afghanistan, an Islamic Republic since 1919. This country has a most unique history. In 1926 it became a kingdom, but the king abdicated in 1929 in favor of the Republic. Dr. Jim brought a slide presentation with him that provided a look at that nations buildings, landscape, and culture while he was there. As a nation

about equal to the size of Texas, one might say it demonstrates an altogether different picture of that to which we have become accustomed. However, it is a picturesque land as illustrated by these two photos. It boasts a population of around 31 million.



More than 3 million Afghans live outside the country, mainly in Pakistan and Iran, although 5 million have returned since the removal of the Taliban. It is a very poor country with the average income amounting to about \$1490.00 per year. Twenty-five percent of the children die before their fifth birthday. There are a number of different ethnic groups; these are Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkmen, Almaq, Baluch, Nuristani, and Kizilbash. The literacy rate approximates 28.1% (male 43%, female 12%), but the real figures may vary on the lower side. The population consists of Sunni Muslim 80%, Shi'a Muslim 19%, and about 1% of other. The main languages are Dari (Afgahn Persian) and Pashto.

Afghanistan is quite mountainous and temperatures vary from extreme cold (freeze a cup of water overnight) to very hot (115 to 120 degrees). Dwellings often do not have windows as we think of them, but merely a drape over an opening. There is nothing to keep out either extremes of weather.

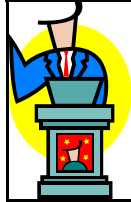


Dr. Jim wore the attire that is commonly seen in that country. Note that the shirt is very much like one in this country, except that it reaches below the knees. The trousers are extremely broad at the waist and are merely gathered and tied with a makeshift belt.

There was far more to his presentation than you see here, but all in all, it was a most fascinating demonstration of life as it is lived elsewhere in the world.



Have you sent pictures of kids in action to Dave Wiley yet? If not, what's holding you up?
 It's really not a tall order. Just find some pictures you took of some of the activities involving youngsters, and it need not be so many as an album.



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Ladies of the Salem Optimist Club,
 As this is the month of April, with the birthstone being the diamond, I need to ask you to be willing to share your sparkle with an upcoming opportunity.

McKay High School has shown an interest in starting a Junior Optimist Club. Presently we are doing some leg work to get the ball rolling. Just around the corner we may need some of you ladies to assist in keeping the momentum progressing. You can call me @ (503) 949-2744 or e-mail me at vinny1959@netzero.net to let me know that you are willing to help if needed.

I know you are curious as to why I am directing this to you ladies, so please let me explain. As I have signed a number of awards for "Community Affairs", I was a bit surprised that the majority of them were for young ladies. The recipient from McKay really made an impact on me, so I would really like to be able to comfortably accommodate that setting if that is what the school leans toward in gender interest.

As the scouts say to "always be prepared", I am trying to do the same in getting ready for a new opportunity for our club. Sometimes, ladies working with ladies is the best thing to do. It might be as easy as a phone call, or maybe giving a few suggestions. I just need to ask if you are willing to help if needed. In the hope that your month does nothing but dazzles, John.



- April 9 Youth Appreciation
- Most Improved in Academics
- April 16 Ditto
- April 23 Jeff Dunleavy
- YMCA



The young lady pictured here is truly special, but it is not likely that she realizes it. She has and will continue to be our promotional person for the Salem Relay Races.

Have you thought of someone who might like to help with this program? If you have, don't put the question off any longer. Remember, the date is May 9th, and it is now the month of April. That person or persons, as the case may be, needs to have a background check and that may take some time also



With this picture and the one below, some might think the Bull Editor has reverted to his childhood. Nevertheless, be at the home of Arlen Hollinshead on Tuesday, April 7, 5:00 p.m. to stuff Easter eggs.

The distribution of the aforementioned eggs will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, at Morningside Methodist Church. The hunt is to begin at 10:00 a.m.



Do you know what this picture represents? Well, if you said it depicts something called the Awesome 3000, you would be right on. This event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, just one week ahead of the Salem Relay Races. Fortunately, like the relays, the Optimist Club is only one of several organizations that participate, and it is fun event for the kids. In spite of the chilly weather we have been experiencing lately, there is reason to be more optimistic about the month of May, so make your plans to be there.