



“Optimist OPTICS”

“Dare to Care”



Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown

Rich Hawley - President

This Week's Program

Next Week's Program

Sept 23rd - Changing of the Guard

Oct 14th - TBA



Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



President Rich Hawley called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Invocation was given by Gary Burk followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and reciting the Optimist Creed.

Announcement: The Optimist Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. Ron will send the link for the meeting.

Rich wanted to make sure that everyone who planned to attend the Changing of the Guard should let him know what they wanted to eat, and that the fee was \$10. **Reservations must be in by Monday, September 14, 2020.** The Changing of the Guard will be held during the regular meeting at noon on September 23, at the Creekside Baptist Church meeting hall on Oak Hill Road just north of Morgan Avenue.

President Rich changed hats and became the money grabber, oops, Sarge for the day. The drawing for the Half-pot was another missing member. This time, Rick Roop's name was drawn. The pot is beginning to grow again. Conscience money was gathered, but most who gave didn't seem to have a conscience. Hmm. Easy Trivia Questions, so one said. Half got their question correct and the other half was only a state away. Possible a state of confusion.

There was a guest today who *might* be our next new member; Matthew Evinger. Yes, it is spelled correctly.

Today's guest speaker was Gelina Mascoe, who was born in Haiti. Personal information is shown below.

They started a school in Haiti for student's K - 6th grades. The school has, at last count, 101 students. Their Foundation provides the school building, uniforms, food, teacher's salaries, supplies and repairs to the school building. They have also developed a fresh water system, and bathrooms. One of the goals is to give the students a safe place during the day. The electricity does not work for weeks at a time, so the kids are in the classroom studying in 90 degree temperatures.

The Haitians have to deal with hurricanes, storms and earthquakes.

The school headquarters is located in Evansville. Daily reports are receive as to attendance, conditions and so on. The bills and teacher's salaries are paid from Evansville, but the US currency has to be converted to Haitian currency.

Continued on Next Page

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11:45am
Old National Bank Building, Downtown; Blue and Gold Room
Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905
www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.

“Optimist OPTICS” - continued



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



People who attend college are wealthy, which leaves the poor children to do work without meaning. The major reason people are struggling in this Third-World Country is that the Haitian Government will not support education.

Crystal Arnwine assisted Gelina by distributing material regarding the school and their Foundation.

This was a very interesting meeting and presentation.

Editor: Gary A. Burk

Gelina Mascoe's Bio



I was born in La Gonave, Haiti and when I was only three years of age, my parents relocated to the United States to start a better life for our family. As you can imagine, the process was not easy for them so my siblings and I remained in Haiti until my parents were finally established, nine years later. I am endlessly grateful that I was able to acquire an education here in the United States and I even went on to earn a college degree (self-funded) here, as well. I am definitely the Haitian exception rather than the rule and I am vastly aware that my life could have and should have (based on circumstances) turned out differently. Especially because my own mother, as the eldest child in her family, was responsible for the upbringing of her many siblings and with incredible poverty surrounding her for most of her life, was never able to obtain ANY formal education. I saw how this disadvantage affected all of us and I vowed to eventually make a difference in any way I possibly could. It is because of her struggle with life and poverty that I am exceedingly passionate about Haitian education.

In 2005, with gratitude towards the United States in his heart and memories of his Haitian struggles in his head, my father, Dinaus Joseph, acquired L'ecole Dinaus Mixed school in Haiti to try and make a positive difference. My father is much older now and has recently entrusted the operations to my brother and myself. It is our personal goal to provide a better education and environment for not only the children at this school, but for children throughout Haiti. Currently, this school is being funded solely by my personal earnings as well as my brother's. We are realistic in recognizing that we can't keep this up forever and we are in need of help to provide school supplies, food, and other materials.

We understand that not everyone has a personal connection to Haiti but we hope that, with the increase of global awareness and recognition that any child's today affects our world's tomorrow, people will understand the importance of giving a child a chance and will donate what they can. Help break the cycle of poverty by donating, today!



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