

In our 93rd Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

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Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
August 2021

Meets 2nd Thursday
On Zoom
1:00 PM

August 12th Program

Our guest speaker will be **Ken Berg**, Music Director and Resident Composer for the Birmingham Boys Choir. For 28 years Ken served as the Director of Choirs and Fine Arts Chairman at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham. The choirs at John Carroll consistently received highest ratings in district, state and national festivals under his leadership.

After retiring from teaching high school in 2005, Ken served for six years as the full-time Music Minister and Composer in Residence at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, also in Birmingham. As of the summer of 2011, after serving as the part-time Music Director for 33 years, Ken now serves as the first full-time Music Director and Resident Composer for the Birmingham Boys Choir. (ken@birminghamboyschoir.org) Under his leadership the Choir has toured extensively throughout the United States as well as internationally in Costa Rica, Europe, Japan, and Canada. Additionally, the Choristers of the BBC have sung for OAKE, MENC and ACDA State, Division and National conventions.

Ken and his wife, Susan are the proud parents of two sons, Michael and David; both fine musicians in their own right, as well as BBC Alumni!

Ken has served as a State and Southern Division officer with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and has also served on the Training Courses Committee of the Royal School of Church Music in America. Additionally, he teaches Choral Arranging as an adjunct at his Alma Mater, Samford University.

Ken often serves as clinician and adjudicator throughout the U.S. His music is published with Bella Voce Press, LLC (www.bellavocepress.com), Alfred Music, Carl Fischer, Chorister's Guild, Colla Voce, Fred Bock, Hal Leonard, Hinshaw Music, Kjos Music, MorningStar Music, Pavane Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Walton Music.

The Optimist Club of Birmingham will also be recognizing **Youth Appreciation Award Recipient Ethan D. Hill**, at the meeting, which also happens to be his **11th birthday!!** Ethan is the Founder of **Ethan's Heart-Bags4Blessings**, a Nonprofit Organization (501c3) to support the homeless population and those at risk for homelessness.

For more information about **Ethan's Heart**, please click on the following link to read the following article (11/19/2020).

[**Ethan's Heart: Local boy provides care packages for homeless community**](#)

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Please make plans to attend this meeting on Zoom!!

Respect for Law Program Held July 8th

Respect for Law Chair **Adrienne Pearson** and Co-Chair **Jacqueline Holder** did an excellent job of conducting our annual Respect for Law Program!

The Club was proud to honor the **13 Officers of the Birmingham Police Department's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Division**. The purpose of the CSP is to increase and enhance the safety, security, and welfare of residents in the Birmingham Housing Authority District. As part of the Birmingham Police Department's goal of building safe and secure communities, CSP has implemented "[Safe Passage](#)."

Our guest speaker was **Ken Foreman**, Public Safety Director of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District. Director Foreman is a true professional with a passion to serve others. As Public Safety Director of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, he has been instrumental in the safety and security of the communities within the Housing Authority.

In addition to the many other titles that Director Foreman has held, including U.S. Army Communications Specialist, State and Federal Corrections Officer, Veteran Affairs Police Officer, Minister and Pastor, along with those dearest to his heart, including Husband, Dad, Papa, and Servant, he can now add one more... **Optimist Club of Birmingham Member!**

The Club was also pleased to recognize **Captain Shelia Finney**, Commander of the Community Safety Partnership Division, who nominated the CSP Division for the award and was there to introduce each of the Officers.

A Respect for Law plaque was given to the CSP Division and a donation was made to the CSP Division to support the "Safe Passage" program. Each of the officers received a copy of the award and they, along with Director Foreman and Captain Finney, also received a copy of the Optimist Creed and a token of appreciation from the Club.

MEMBER NEWS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham has been blessed with 4 new members since the end of June! We look forward to working with you to serve the youth of our community! WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!!

New Club Members

Ken Foreman sponsored by **Adrienne Pearson**
Gina R Levert JD, sponsored by **Adrienne Pearson**
John A Plump, sponsored by **Sandra Weems**

New Friend of Optimists Member

Michael Jones sponsored by **Teresa Jones**

For more information or questions re: **Membership**, please contact **Membership Chair Leon Evans** at levansjr74@aol.com or 205-836-6057.

August Birthdays: Don Kirkland – 1st, Steve Wingo – 4th, Judge Patricia Stephens – 24th.

Anniversaries: Helen & Ken Holcomb – 7th.

Congratulations to all! Enjoy your special day!

Please note: If your birthday and/or anniversary was not included, please email the dates to Nancy Ryan at nryan95@charter.net, so they can be added to the list!!

RESPECT FOR LAW

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was proud to honor the Community Safety Partnership Division of the Birmingham Police Department at our recent Respect for Law Program, and to recognize keynote speaker, Ken Foreman, Director of Public Safety of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, along with Captain Shelia Finney, Commander of the Community Safety Partnership Division.



**Guest Speaker & New Club Member
Director Ken Foreman**



**Captain Shelia Finney
Commander of CSP Division**

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED TO CENTRAL ALABAMA YWCA



New Club Member Danella Johnson prepares backpacks with school supplies for children served through the Central Alabama YWCA.



VP of Youth Work, Nancy Ryan, and New Club Member, Danella Johnson, delivered backpacks filled with school supplies to the YWCA Family Resource Center to be distributed during their first "Family Reunion: Block Party Edition" event, which took place on August 7th.