

In our 94th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub
BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
December 2021

Meets 2nd Thursday
On Zoom
1:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: The Club's Christmas Luncheon will take place at The City Club, 1901 6th Avenue North, Suite 3100, in the Vulcan Ballroom, on **Wednesday, December 8th, 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.** Cost of meal is \$25.

December 8th Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Luncheon Committee members, **Teresa Jones**, **Carolyn McCoy**, and **Sharon Wilson** have put together a real treat for all who will be attending our event. In addition to a delicious buffet meal and the presentation of gift cards to benefit foster youth served through Jefferson County DHR, we are pleased to welcome guest speakers, **Kelly Peoples** and **Robin R. King**, saxophonist **Willie "Jazzanova" Davis**, as well as Members & other guests.

Kelly Peoples has dedicated her career to serving others, working in non-profit organizations in the Birmingham area since 2001. Kelly was excited to join Down Syndrome Alabama in January 2020 as their Executive Director and brings knowledge of development, marketing, and management. Down Syndrome Alabama is headquartered in Hoover but has 7 satellite programs across the state that she is thrilled to build on. Kelly is also excited to implement a plan of strategic growth in programs, outreach, development, and membership. Kelly received her degree in Public Relations from Auburn University. She and her husband, Greg, live in Hoover with their three children.

Robin R. King is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is a licensed bachelor social worker and has worked with Jefferson County Department of Human Resources, Child Welfare for twenty-two years in the Department of Resource Development. She is a resource development liaison which allows her to collaborate with many community partners. In her role as Resource Development Liaison, she is the coordinator of Back to School and Christmas projects for foster children, facilitates annual community resource fairs and develops and maintains community and vendor resources for JCDHR social work staff.

Robin is a former member of the Children's Policy Council and over the years she has worked with community organizations and churches such as the Optimist Club, Forgotten Initiative, Netlink Exchange, United Way Visiting Allocation Team, Mission Alabama, My Child's Closet, Southern Company, Hands On Birmingham, First Presbyterian Church, Shades Mt. Church and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Robin has been married for thirty-three years and has two adult children. She is very active in her community. Robin also loves advocating for children and families as she does every day as a social worker.

Entertainment will be provided by **Willie "Jazzanova" Davis**, better known as Willie Lamar Davis, who was born on Dec. 13th, 1986, in Tuscaloosa, AL. He started playing the saxophone at the age of 10 and has been playing ever since. Willie realized his true passion for the saxophone when it was taken away from him. His sax was stolen and he went weeks without playing. During his senior year of high school, his mother bought him his pride and glory: the Cannonball Global Series Nickel Plated Alto Sax, which he plays now along with his Cannonball Tenor Sax. After High School, Willie left for Norfolk State University where he learned from musicians from all over the world which better honed his sax-playing abilities. During his 1st semester of his freshmen year of college his older sister passed away. While this placed a heavy burden on Willie's heart, he continued on, knowing that it's what his sister would want. During the early stages of his second semester in college another tragedy in Willie's life struck. His mother passed of cancer, which coupled with his sister's untimely death, took an extremely heavy toll on him. The only way that he knew to cope with his pains & sorrows were through playing the saxophone. Through his music, Willie expresses his life's hurts, passions, joys, and daily experiences, which makes him the musician that he is today.

MEMBER NEWS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham extends our deepest condolences to **Ken Holcomb** on the loss of his wife and past Optimist Club Member, **Helen Holcomb**. Helen gave generously of her time, talent, and treasure throughout her time as an Optimist. She was always supportive of Ken and was instrumental in the building of the Leeds Optimist Club during his year as Club President. She was especially involved in projects associated with our Club's partnership with Chandler Champion, who was crowned Miss Alabama 2013, most notably, the establishment of the *Chandler Champion Rushton School Library* in 2013, and with Zoé Champion, who was crowned Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019, most notably, the establishment of the *Zoé Champion Olivia's House Children's Library* in 2018.

The Club also offers our sincerest condolences to **Kenny Haynes** on the loss of his Mom, **Bobbie Pickett**.

Please keep Ken and Kenny and each of their families in your prayers at this most difficult time.

December Birthdays: Anita Lee – 5th, Patricia Johnson – 6th, Adrienne Pearson – 17th.

Anniversaries: Marty & Kathy Brill – 13th, Jon & Nancy Ryan – 15th. Enjoy your special day!!

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

November 11th Meeting

Our guest speaker was **Jay Roberson**, Vice President of The World Games 2022 Birmingham. Mr. Roberson is an accomplished Senior Level Executive with 20+ years of experience in Collegiate Athletics Administration, Professional Sports, and Government. He is a decisive leader focused on result driven fundraising, community relations, public relations, and strategic & financial planning producing outcomes for future growth.

Mr. Roberson is no stranger to the Club or to youth in the community, having served as one of the presenters for Youth Appreciation Day with Zone 1 Optimists in 2016 and 2017, during the time he served as President Pro-Tempore of the Birmingham City Council (2009-2018).



Youth Appreciation Day 2016



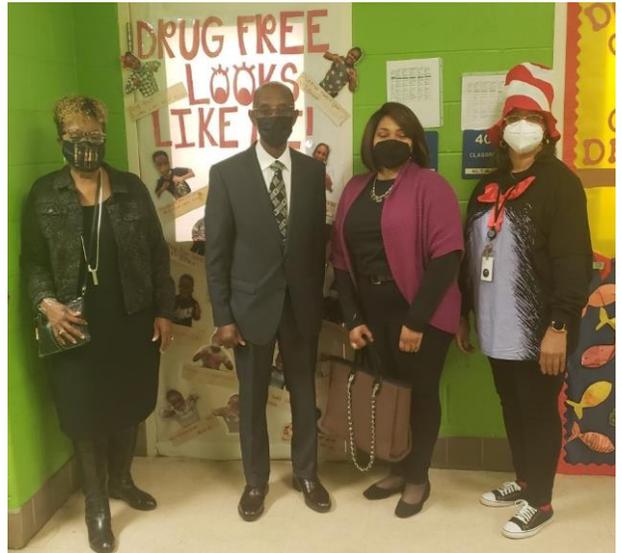
Youth Appreciation Day 2017



Jay Roberson

Red Ribbon Week

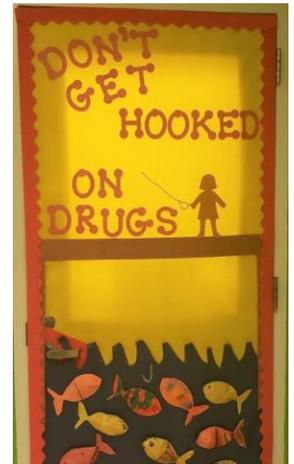
Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. In recognition of Red Ribbon Week, **Angene Coleman** organized and chaired a special event at Robinson School. **Dr. Paul Amamoo**, **Kelly Driver**, and **Sharon Wilson** served as judges of the doors decorated by the 3rd Grade Classes that were based on the theme, "Drug Free Looks Like Me." Treats were provided for the participants. The Club provided a gift card for the winning class.



Judges Sharon Wilson, Dr. Paul Amamoo & Kelly Driver with teacher at Robinson Elementary School



Winning Door



Optimist Club of Birmingham Carries on the Tradition of "Ringing the Bells"



Ruby & Glenn Peterson



Sharon Wilson & Adrienne Pearson



**Adrienne Pearson, Ruby & Glenn Peterson,
& Sharon Wilson**



Ron Taylor, Teresa & Michael Jones



Dr. Paul Amamoo & Herb Forsythe



Jon & Nancy Ryan