

Optimist Club of Birmingham

In Our 91st Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

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The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
January 10, 2019

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays
12:15 PM

PLEASE NOTE: The Club will meet at Our Lady of Lourdes located at 980 Huffman Rd. in the Youth Building (1st building on right when entering property from Huffman Rd.) **The meal cost will be \$10.** For planning purposes, please let **Nancy Ryan** know if you plan to attend by Tuesday, January 9.

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 10

Did you know that Optimist International is celebrating its Centennial this year? The January 10 program will feature a very informative video on the history of Optimist International entitled "100 Years of Optimism." As you know, the Optimist Club of Birmingham just celebrated its 90th year in 2018. Members, both long-time and new, are encouraged to come share your most memorable times as a member and/or share your vision for the future of our Club as we move closer to our own Centennial!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The annual Christmas luncheon was held at the beautiful Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The event featured the induction of our newest member, **Sylvia Craig-Burnett**, Independent Living Program Coordinator for Jefferson County DHR; and the presentation of Christmas gift cards to benefit foster teens served through Jefferson County DHR and Gateway. There to receive the gift cards for Gateway were Foster Parent Recruiter, Reginald Wilson, and Foster Parent, Willie May Long. The Club wishes to thank **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** and **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama** for their generous contributions, making it possible to provide gift cards for 45 foster teens! The Club also thanks **Miss Alabama 2013 Chandler Champion** for providing the musical entertainment for 35 members and guests with a variety of traditional and upbeat Christmas tunes before lunch. During the luncheon, Chandler led everyone in a medley of sing-a-long favorites, including *Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells*, *Away in a Manger*, and *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Everyone especially enjoyed joining in on the *Twelve Days of Christmas*! **Anita Lee** shared a special religious meaning for the song. Member **Sam Edwards** received the "Spirit of Christmas" award from Chandler for his participation on the "three French hens" team!

Thank you to **Kathy Brill**, **Anita Lee**, **Ruby Peterson** & **Nancy Ryan** who served on the decorating committee for the event. Thank you also to **Michael & Norma Stewart** with M & S Catering for providing the excellent meal!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17 – Board Mtg., YWCA, 12 noon

[Optimist Club of Birmingham Calendar 2018-2019](#)

MEMBER NEWS

January Birthdays: 5th – **Flora Giles**, 8th – **Leon Evans**, 14th – **Sylvia Craig-Burnett**, 22nd – **Kenny Haynes**, 26th – **Ruby Peterson**, 29th – **Ron Taylor**. Anniversaries: 28th – **Sri & Dr. Sudha Gutti**. Enjoy your special day!

PECANS

Thank you to all those who have turned in your payment for pecans. If you have not already done so, please submit your payment as soon as possible, so that the Club has an accurate account of the funds raised through the sale.

OI SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS



The Club will be sponsoring all three Optimist International Scholarship Contests for the 2018-2019 Optimist year including: Essay (Deadline to submit application & essay, Feb. 1st. Top 3 awards presented Feb. 28), Oratorical (Saturday, March 2, 2019) & Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (CCDHH, April 11, 2019).

Please share the following link with your family and friends who have children or grandchildren under the age of 19 (as of October 1, 2018) who might be interested in participating in one or two of the contests in which they are eligible to compete. Please ask them to contact the contest chair of each specific contest if they have any questions: [Optimist International Scholarship Contests 2018-2019](#).

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 30 – JULY 3, 2019, LOUISVILLE, KY



Mark your calendar & make plans to attend the 101st Optimist International Convention! The AL-MS District Officers will be staying in the Galt House (East Tower). There will be a hospitality suite with plenty of food for breakfast and lunch, which will save on eating out for every meal. Participants will only be asked to contribute toward the purchase of the food. There is also a possibility of a traveling on a chartered bus with other Optimists from our District. More details will be available soon, but please don't delay in making your room reservations, so that you don't miss out on getting the convention rate in the hotel! Please check out more details about the convention at: <https://www.optimist.org/convention>

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS – DECEMBER 20, 2018



Sponsor Anita Lee, Membership Co-Chair Nancy Ryan & President Jon Ryan welcome & congratulate new member, Sylvia Craig-Burnett.



Miss Alabama 2013 Chandler Champion provided the excellent musical entertainment!



Kards for Kids Co-Chair Nancy Ryan presents Christmas gift cards to Sylvia Craig-Burnett for Jefferson County DHR and to Willie May Long, Foster Parent, and Reginald Wilson, Foster Parent Recruiter for Gateway. Not pictured: Kards for Kids Co-Chair Alice Westery (Founder of Youth Towers) and Our Lady of Lourdes Labor Day Festival Chair, Kathy Brill.



On behalf of the Optimist Club, Jon & Nancy Ryan congratulate Miss Jefferson County's Outstanding Teen 2019 Zoé Champion on being named "Youth Volunteer of the Year 2018" by the Leeds Area Chamber of Commerce. Zoé had planned to provide the musical entertainment along with her sister, Chandler, but the awards luncheon took place at the same time. The Optimist Club has partnered with Zoé on numerous service projects over the past several years and looks forward to working with her in the future!



President Jon Ryan presents special awards for the "Bell Ringers of the Year"! Ron Taylor, Adrienne Pearson, Ruby Peterson & Glenn Peterson braved the bitter cold temperature and the winds to ring the bells for the Salvation Army on November 27th.



Judge Patricia Stephens and her husband, Ira Moss, enjoyed visiting with other members and guests.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS – DECEMBER 20, 2018



Dr. Paul & Gwen Amamoo



Sam Edwards

Recipient of the “Spirit of Christmas” award!



Angene & Jerry Coleman



So happy to have Don & Debbie Kirkland with us, who were in town visiting from Wichita, Kansas!



Dewayne & Mary Smith



Michael & Norma Stewart with M & S Catering provided the excellent meal for the occasion!



Ron & Judy Taylor



Kathy Brill, Nancy & Jon Ryan with guest, Chandler Champion