

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
January – February 2023

In our 95th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

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

Meets 2nd Thursday
City Club
12:00 Noon

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST SET FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH, 10 AM OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH 980 HUFFMAN RD., BIRMINGHAM, 35215

Brunch will be available. For planning purposes, please RSVP to Leon Evans at levansjr74@aol.com or 205-222-6227 by Monday, March 6th if you plan to attend.

JANUARY 19TH CLUB MEETING

Our guest speaker was **Jacque Fazekas**, Founder of **Bama Health Foods**, the local natural health food store that serves people in under-resourced food desert communities in Birmingham who are skeptical or have poor medical care yet seek to improve their chronic illnesses.

Having always battled health issues of her own throughout the years, Ms. Fazekas has had to seek natural solutions beyond medical solutions. She became a certified health coach in 2018 after leaving a long retail career to help others discover how to be naturally well. She is passionate about providing for others with limited access to these natural solutions and believes that everyone is worthy of good health.

The Club was also delighted to have **Dorothy George**, as a guest! Jacque and Dorothy had just met each other earlier in the day and Jacque invited Dorothy to attend the meeting! Dorothy is the Small Business Relationship Coordinator with the Office of Business Diversity for the City of Birmingham.

FEBRUARY 16TH CLUB MEETING

Essay Contest Chair, **Sharon Wilson**, introduced the top 3 Essay Contest Winners. The topic of this year's essay is "Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?"

Second Place Winner, **Madison Brown** and Third Place Winner, **Paris Perdue**, each read their essays for those in attendance. First Place Winner, **Adele Brandrup**, was unable to attend, so her essay was read by Sharon Wilson. Each winner received a cash prize (1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100), a medallion, and participation certificate.

Adele's essay has been submitted for further competition in the AL-MS District Essay for an opportunity to earn a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of her choice!

The Club was pleased to welcome our guests: **Lashundra Small**, mother of Paris and Madison; **Ra'Jeeni & Shakira Marshall**, daughter & granddaughter of Carolyn McCoy; **Monithia Smith**, niece of Carolyn McCoy; and **Wyteria Fields**, sister-in-law of Ra'Jeeni Marshall, and her daughter, **Couri Fields**. Also in attendance was **Norma Stewart**, Treasurer of Birmingham West End Club. A delicious meal was provided by Norma and her husband, **Michael Stewart**, of **M & S Catering**.

MEMBER NEWS

The Club wishes to extend our deepest sympathies to **Bertram Perry**, on the recent passing of his beloved wife of over 65 years, **Florence**. Please keep Bertram and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Congratulations to **Jerry & Angene Coleman** on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 19th!!

January Birthdays: 8th – Leon Evans, 22nd – Kenny Haynes, 26th – Ruby Peterson, 29th – Ron Taylor.

Anniversaries: 28th – Sri & Dr. Sudha Gutti

February Birthdays: 3rd – Dr. Sudha Gutti, 18th – Bertram Perry; **Anniversaries:** 19th – Jerry & Angene Coleman

Hope you each enjoyed 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 11, 10 am – Oratorical Contest at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL), 980 Huffman Rd., Birmingham 35215

Thursday, March 16 – Board of Directors Meeting, 1 pm, on Zoom

Friday, March 24 – Casino Dance Night at OLL, Sponsored by OLL dance community & Optimist Club of Birmingham.

CASINO DANCE NIGHT

The Optimist Club of Birmingham will be partnering with the dance community at Our Lady of Lourdes to sponsor a "Casino Dance Night" to raise funds for the Birmingham Optimist Youth Foundation. Music will be provided by "Randy Glenn & Peppy." In addition to dancing, the evening will feature casino type games played with chips, a silent auction and raffles for a wide selection of items. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Volunteers need to arrive by 6 pm to help with setting up the games, silent auction & raffle and be ready to begin at 7 pm! (Games will end at 9 / Silent auction/raffle at 9:30.)

Donated items are needed for the silent auction & raffle. We are especially in need of items that appeal to men, or to both men and women, such as gift cards, oil changes, items for cooking or grilling, etc. Click on the link for a [letter requesting donations from individuals and/or businesses](#). A flyer for the event is also included on page 3 to share.

Please contact **Nancy Ryan** at 205-531-5992 or nryan95@charter.net if you are available to volunteer and/or donate items. **Please plan on bringing donated items to the Oratorical Contest on March 11 or contact Nancy to make other arrangements for delivery of the items.**

January 19th Club Meeting



Adrienne Pearson & President Carolyn McCoy thank guest speaker, Jacquie Fazekas, Founder of Bama Health Foods, for her excellent presentation.



President Carolyn McCoy presents a donation for Bama Health Foods, on behalf of the Birmingham Optimist Youth Foundation, to Founder Jacquie Fazekas



Dorothy George & Jacquie Fazekas

**February 16th Club Meeting
Essay Scholarship Contest**



VP & Essay Contest Chair, Sharon Wilson, congratulates Madison Brown & Paris Perdue, 2nd & 3rd Place winners of the Club's Annual Essay Scholarship Contest.



Proud Mom, Lashundra Small, congratulates her daughters for their excellent essays!



Guests of President Carolyn McCoy: Wyteria Fields & Couri, Monithia Smith, Ra'Jeeni & Shakira Marshall



PROMISE YOURSELF... Optimists & guests recite the Optimist Creed together as the meeting is adjourned.

CASINO DANCE NIGHT



FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2023

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

980 HUFFMAN RD., BIRMINGHAM, AL 35215

DANCE - 7:00 - 11:00 PM

MUSIC PROVIDED BY RANDY GLENN & PEPPY

\$10 ADMISSION

GAMES - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

SILENT AUCTION ENDS / RAFFLE DRAWINGS AT 9:30 PM

GAME CHIPS & RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE:

ONE / \$1 OR SIX / \$5

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE

BIRMINGHAM OPTIMIST YOUTH FOUNDATION

A 501(C)3 SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO

BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY!