

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
September 2021

Meets 2nd Thursday
On Zoom
1:00 PM

September 9th Program

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to have **Dr. Martha Bouyer**, CEO of Out of the Box Tour and Travel Services, as our guest speaker.

Dr. Bouyer serves as the Executive Director of the Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community Restoration Fund in Birmingham, Alabama. Martha also serves as the Tourism Consultant for the Alabama African American Civil Rights Historic Sites Consortium and the Alabama Civil Rights Tourism Association representing 20 sites. Martha is the recipient of the Alabama Tourism Director's Award for 2020.

Martha is an award-winning educator, administrator, and curriculum developer whose passion for teaching has taken her around the world and brought teachers from around the world to Birmingham to work with her.

Her interactive and engaging tours create a space for dialogue designed to expand knowledge of the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Martha's ability to combine history with heritage tourism is nothing short of phenomenal! She is a gifted teacher, workshop presenter, and travel expert.

Dr. Bouyer is the principal of Out of The Box, which creates interactive field studies, travel experiences, workshops and curricula for varied clientele including the National Park Service, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and TPT Minnesota Public TV. Martha also served as the lead consultant for the teacher training workshop for the Pulitzer Prize winning, "Slavery by Another Name".

Martha has studied at some of the world's most esteemed institutions including, UCLA, Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, and Harvard University. Her work has received financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), The National Park Service, The Alabama Humanities Foundation, The United States Department of Education, and the Center for Civic Education. Additionally, she has been featured in numerous travel magazines such as Spirit of America, and educational publications that include the Gilder-Lehrman Institute's History Now, The Birmingham Civil Rights' Institute Curriculum Guide, About Learning, Pro Teacher, and Harvard's Reading, Writing, and Civic Education Curriculum Guide.

Martha's premier educational tourism program is "**Stony the Road We Trod . . .**" **Alabama's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement**. In 2018 and 2019, "**Stony . . .**" was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as a three-week National Teacher Institute. "**Stony . . .**" will again be offered by the NEH as a three-week National Teacher Institute in 2021. Martha has conducted Civil Rights Field Studies for Del Norte, CA School District Teaching American History Grant (TAH); Elk Grove, CA, TAH; Washington County Schools TAH; Houston City Schools TAH; Savannah City Schools TAH;

Durham City Schools TAH; North Humboldt TAH; Windham Southeast Supervisory Union TAH; Virginia Beach City Schools TAH; Presenter for 5 NCATT Civil Rights Field Studies, and the DC National Geographic Alliance.

For more information about Out of the Box Tour and Travel Services, please visit:

<https://outoftheboxtravelservices.com/>

Here is the link to the video that Dr. Bouyer shared during the presentation: "[The Roots 'Aint Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around' from The Soundtrack For A Revolution](#)"

**Dr. Martha Bouyer, CEO
Out of the Box
Tour and Travel Services**



MEMBER NEWS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham welcomes new Club Members **Patrick W Fuller** and **Ponzella P Fuller**, both sponsored by **Anita Lee**. **WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!!**

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

September Birthdays: Nathalie Oliver – 3rd, Sam Edwards – 11th, Herbert Brayboy, Sr. – 15th, Nancy Ryan – 16th, Roger Vaughan – 17th. **Anniversaries:** Debbie & Don Kirkland – 1st, Ruby & Glenn Peterson – 1st, Heide & Herb Forsythe – 7th. Jean & Roger Vaughan – 17th
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!!



Club Members attending the Greater Alabama Council – BSA, American Values Luncheon on August 19 were L to R (seated): Anita Lee & Margie Argo (standing): Rudy Lee, Sharon Wilson, Ronald Taylor, Nancy & Jon Ryan.

August 12th Program

The Optimist Club of Birmingham and Youth Appreciation Chair **Leon Evans** was proud to recognize **Youth Appreciation Award Recipient Ethan D. Hill**, at the August 12th meeting, which also happened to be Ethan's 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.

Youth Appreciation Co-Chair **Jessica Lloyd**, presented Ethan with his Youth Appreciation Citation at a later date, along with a contribution on behalf of the Club to benefit the work he does for those in need in the community.

To make a tax-deductible donation to Ethan's Heart, go to:

1. Zelle: Ethansheartbham@gmail.com
2. PayPal Charity Page:
paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4308008
3. Cash App: \$Ethansheart or 205-538-2330
4. Go Fund Me Charity Page:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/donate-widget/31662>



Jessica Lloyd & Ethan Hill

Susan & Ken Berg

Our guest speaker was **Ken Berg**, Music Director and Resident Composer for the **Birmingham Boys Choir**.

Under Mr. Berg's leadership, along with his wife and Associate Director, **Susan Berg**, the Choir has toured extensively throughout the United States as well as internationally in Costa Rica, Europe, Japan, and Canada.

"The Birmingham Boys Choir is a non-profit, civic organization built with the purpose of allowing talented boys in the greater Birmingham area an opportunity to more fully develop their gifts in an area of concentrated study. It's more than music. It's training for life."

For more information, please visit
<https://birminghamboyschoir.org/>

To make a contribution to benefit the Birmingham Boys Choir, please visit

<https://birminghamboyschoir.org/contribute/>

or mail your tax-deductible donation to:

Birmingham Boys Choir
2025 Kentucky Avenue, Suite D
Birmingham, AL 35216

SEPTEMBER IS

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!! **ZONE 1 OPTIMISTS ARE SPONSORING THE** **ALFRED G. ADAMS, JR. MEMORIAL** **VIRTUAL 4TH ANNUAL WALK FOR A CURE**

Please join the Zone One Optimist Clubs of Optimist International AL-MS District throughout the month of September as we help make a difference in the lives of children and help find a cure for childhood cancer.

In recognition of the dedication and passion that our beloved **District Governor Alfred G. Adams, Jr.** had for Optimist International's Childhood Health & Wellness Program, we are honored to remember him in this special way. **We respectfully request that donations being made to OI Foundation be given in memory of Alfred G. Adams, Jr. to benefit the Childhood Health & Wellness Program**, a restricted fund which includes Childhood Cancer and other Chronic Diseases as one of its four main areas of focus.

Participants are encouraged to walk at your convenience any time during the month of September and to send a picture of yourself, along with any family members &/or pets walking with you, to Norma Stewart at normacstewart@yahoo.com. Please include the names of those walking with you if you would like to have them included in a post on our Facebook page! We appreciate your support of this event and of our work benefiting youth in the community!

For more information, please contact:

Norma Stewart normacstewart@yahoo.com or
Nancy Ryan nryan95@charter.net

For those wishing to pay by check, please download and complete the **[Alfred G. Adams, Jr. Memorial - Virtual 4th Annual Walk for a Cure](#)** form and mail it, along with your check, made payable to OIF, (include "Childhood Health & Wellness / Alfred Adams Memorial" in the memo section) **by Friday, September 24** to: Optimist Club of Birmingham, 700 - 71st Place South, Birmingham, AL 35206.

After September 24, please mail directly to:

OI Foundation, PO Box 952126, St. Louis, MO 63195.

Please note: Must be postmarked by September 30, in order to count for the 2020-2021 Optimist year.

For those wishing to contribute by credit or debit card, please visit our Children's of Alabama Online Fundraising page: http://give.childrensal.org/goto/Walk_For_A_Cure_4 to make your donation online, which will be designated to benefit "The Alabama Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders."