

Optimist Club of Birmingham

In Our 90th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
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The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
January 26, 2018

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays
12:15 PM
[Alabama Power Co.](http://AlabamaPowerCo.com)
600 18th St. N
Birmingham, AL 35203

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO CLUB MEETING on Thursday, January 25.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE OPENING OF THE
ZOÉ CHAMPION CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
& BIRMINGHAM OPTIMIST CLUB COMPUTER ROOM
AT OLIVIA'S HOUSE**

[8017 2ND AVENUE S, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35206](http://80172ndAvenueS.com)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2 P.M.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

*Please RSVP to [Nancy Ryan](mailto:nryan95@charter.net) at nryan95@charter.net,
205-467-9170 or 205-531-5992 by Wed., January 24,
for planning purposes for refreshments.

Please consider bringing a new or gently used children's book to the event to donate for the library. *The public library is a good place to look for books that may be on sale for a very reasonable price.

Last Meeting

Our guest speaker was Synethia Davis, the Independent Youth Consultant at Children's Aid Society. Synethia was in foster care from the age of 3 to 21 and aged out in 2011. As a kid and teenager, she was one to NEVER listen to authority and stayed in trouble. In her high school years alone, she was placed in more than 25 foster and group homes. She was "supposed" to be one of the failures, but refused.

In 2011, Synethia joined the United States Army. Since aging out of foster care, she received an AS degree in Biology and a BS in Criminal Justice at UAB. She was recently commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard. Synethia's favorite quotes are "Never let another person say you can never make it or that you will never be something in life", and "Never let your past discourage you from success in your future."

Upcoming Events

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2, 7-11 PM -
[Jump Jive 4 Kids](http://JumpJive4Kids.com) Dance at Our Lady of Lourdes Family
Life Center, [980 Huffman Rd., Birmingham, 35215](http://980HuffmanRd.com) -
Fundraiser to benefit youth in the community, such as
through our support for Huffman Youth Baseball & Park,
where our Club serves as sponsor of the 11-12 year-old
teams and Optimist Club Field. Optimist Jessica Lloyd
will sing & Curtis Lloyd will spin the tunes for guests to
dance the night away! Dance - \$5; Dance & Dinner - \$8.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Items (especially those suited for men)
are needed for the Silent Auction & Raffle. Please bring
items to the Jan. 26 event at Olivia's House, or contact
Nancy Ryan at 205-467-9170, 205-531-5992 or
nryan95@charter.net to arrange for pick up / delivery.**

[Optimist Club of Birmingham Calendar 2017-2018](http://OptimistClubofBirminghamCalendar2017-2018.com)

Club News

Check out our members, Linda DeMarco, Jon & Nancy Ryan, representing the Club at Ronald McDonald House:
[Ronald McDonald House Expansion Grand Opening](http://RonaldMcDonaldHouseExpansionGrandOpening.com)
[Weekend Events video](http://WeekendEvents.com)



At left: President Jon Ryan thanks Synethia Davis for her excellent presentation & presents a donation check from the Club for the Children's Aid Society.

Below: President Jon Ryan, Synethia Davis, Bert Perry & Board Member Dr. Paul Amamoo



CLUB OFFICERS ATTENDED THE 2ND QUARTER AL-MS DISTRICT MEETING IN HATTIESBURG, MS



Secretary Nancy Ryan, President Jon Ryan & Treasurer Leon Evans are ready to climb aboard the AL-MS District Optimist Train!



Treas. Leon Evans & Pres. Jon Ryan display our banner patch representing a donation of \$30/member to the OI Foundation. For more information on how you can support the OI Foundation, contact Club Foundation Chair Roger Vaughan at roger.vaughan@msn.com or 205-602-9242 or visit www.oifoundation.org.



Immediate Past Governor Pam Black presents Club banner patches to Past President Leon Evans for the Community Service, Friend of Youth and Partner in Education Awards and she presents a token of appreciation to District Parliamentarian Jon Ryan.



Pres. Jon Ryan, Sec. Nancy Ryan & Treas. / Zone 1 Lt. Gov. Leon Evans, are pictured with Immediate Past Gov. Pam Black following the Saturday evening awards ceremony.

Optimist Club of Birmingham Members Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Expansion Grand Opening Events on January 12-13, 2018



Nancy & Jon Ryan volunteered alongside Miss Leeds Area's Outstanding Teen Zoé Champion at the Friday night Donor Preview Event.

Linda DeMarco, Childhood Cancer Campaign Chair Jon Ryan & Nancy Ryan were joined by Miss Leeds Area's Outstanding Teen 2018 [Zoé Champion](#) to brave the cold and welcome guests to the Family Housewarming Event on Saturday. It was so heartwarming to see how all the hard work that went into creating more space for families with seriously ill children to have a place to call home when most needed came to fruition!



Nancy & Linda take a moment to pose with Spiderman, Batman & Anna!



Nancy, Linda & Jon "clowning around" & taking a "selfie" with Ronald!



The group enjoyed having time to warm up inside after spending time with guests outside.