

“Dare to Care”

Old National Bank - Bob Jones Family Community Room
Riverside Drive at Main Street
Downtown Evansville



May 14th — **Billye Beckham**
Borrowed Hearts



**YMCA
Camp Carson**



Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905
www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.



Optimist Newsletter Continued



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



Guests and Returns

- **Dan Phillips** made a triumphant return—glad to see him back among the blooming crowd.
- **Guests** included **Gelinda Mascoe**, our speaker, along with **Kristi Pfeiffer** and **Jenny Koch**, both guests of **Mark Hackert**, who clearly believes in sharing Optimist joy (and possibly recruiting backup trivia teammates).

Spotlight on Our Speaker: Gelinda Mascoe and the Haitian Center of Evansville

Our featured speaker, **Gelinda Mascoe**, Executive Director, brought warmth and insight as she shared the mission of the **Haitian Center of Evansville**. Founded just two years ago, the center was created to support the nearly **10,000 Haitian immigrants** who now call our region home.

Their purpose? To provide **training, resources, and connections** that empower Haitians to live independently, thrive economically, and integrate more easily into the Evansville community. This isn't just support—it's strategy and compassion in action.

They've already formed **partnerships** with schools, the **Evansville Police Department**, and a range of community organizations. Their ever-growing list of **classes and workshops** includes:

- **Computer literacy** (because opening 14 browser tabs is a modern survival skill)
- **Resume writing** (and how not to list "watching Netflix" under "Skills")
- **Parenting classes**
- **Healthy living and financial literacy**
- **Haitian cultural events** that bring the flavor, music, and spirit of Haiti to our community
- **Cultural training** to help bridge understanding between neighbors

It's inspiring to see such impactful work happening in our backyard. Gelinda's message reminded us of the power of community, connection, and cultural compassion. It's safe to say she left our club a little smarter and a whole lot more optimistic.

In Conclusion

The Downtown Optimist Club spring gathering was a hit: good friends, good trivia, and a great reminder that sunshine isn't just in the weather—it's in the work we do and the people we support. See you next time—bring your trivia brain, your giving spirit, and maybe a rabbit (we could use the ears).

We were saddened to hear that John "DOC" Bender passed away. Doc was a valued member of our club for many years. We remember him and his "Medical Minutes" at our meetings sometimes a little longer than a minute. He was a true gentleman (gentle-man) and we will miss the time we spent together in the later years at River Pointe Healthcare. Doc was 102. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. No Public Service, only a private family service.

Ron Eberhart, Scribe



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