



February 29, 2008

Vol. 32, Issue 22



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

Optimists Bring Out the  
Best in Children



## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—John Young

### Good Morning Optimist on Leap Year Day!

**Tom McKee** and **Howard Fry** were our official greeters this morning and **Bob Avery** brought John (Jack) Kleinheksel as a guest. Jack is a retired attorney who is very much involved with the Boy Scouts as a fundraiser for the organization, and a good possibility as a new member. **Al Gapuzan** led us in the invocation and conducted the meeting to give our president a brief break. President **Greg** inducted two new members:

- **Steve Kady**, sponsored by **Tom Hoch**
- **Allen Pierce**, sponsored by **Jim Easton**

We also received an application from David Lazaroff, who is being sponsored by new member **Randy Marcove**.

Way to go new members...that's the way to get new members...JUST ASK!!

### Guest Speaker, Susan Gustin, Colorado National History Day

Susan Gustin was our guest speaker today speaking on National History Day. Susan is the Assistant State Coordinator and a former engineer and recruiter for Chevron Oil Company. She has a master's degree with an emphasis on recent U.S.



and British history, and is particularly interested in the history of World Wars 1914-1945.

Colorado participates in the national history day, which challenges students to develop research projects on historical subjects using primary sources. This is a yearlong program involving students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade producing presentations in a variety of formats, including papers, exhibits, documentaries, performances, and web sites. The theme for 2008 is, *Conflict and Compromise in History*.

Judges and volunteers are needed for this project, which is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Colorado, Denver Aurora Campus. Judges and volunteers will receive a Jefferson Peace Medallion for their participation in the project. Seven hours are involved, two in training and five at the actual event. Judges need plenty of "common sense" and a willingness to affirm the participants as very knowledgeable on their subject. Get sign-up sheets from **Greg Young**. More information is available on their web site at: [www.coloradohistoryday.org](http://www.coloradohistoryday.org).

At the conclusion of her presentation **President Greg** presented Susan with a \$300.00 check from the club to support the Colorado History Day project.

#### Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

## Funds for the Ronald McDonald House

Reverend White Eagle of the Wheat Ridge Optimist club told us of the opening of a new Ronald McDonald house in his neighborhood. He spoke to us some time ago about his Rocky Mountain Heartbeat Drums project and asked for our help in raising funds for the Ronald McDonald House by purchasing a small drum for a donation of \$45. If you would like to support this project you can send your check to Rocky Mountain Heartbeat Drums, 1523 Quitman Street #804, Denver, CO 80204. All donations are tax deductible or for more information call 720-941-1700 or see Heartbeat Drums at: [www.handmade-drums](http://www.handmade-drums).

## Announcements

International President's Banquet. IO President Theo Golding will be in attendance. **Karl Geil** encouraged us to get in our reservations and payment for the March 29<sup>th</sup> banquet by March 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$32 each and it will be held at the Doubletree Hotel 3203 Quebec Street. Tickets are available from **Karl Geil** or **George Buzick** if you would like to attend. This promises to be a great time for all at this special event.

**Ron Cisco** is looking for hole sponsors for Junior Golf. Cost is \$50 and will be a great help in getting our winning kids to the National Contest.

**Oscar Sorensen** has 3 candidates for 2008-9 Club Officers. **Phil Perrington** has agreed to run for President, **Al Gapuzan** for VP and **Don Iley** for the board. We need more volunteers to step up and run!

**Gary Strobbridge** says the St. Patrick's Day Parade is just 2 weeks away, Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 am at the Breakfast Inn on Evans. Plan to attend if you can.

**Cy Regan** had Super Market Sales of \$1,250 this week. He says that's good, but we can do better. Just a \$25 card will help. Keep the dollars coming. This is a neat and easy fundraiser.

**Joe Marci** reports that this year's Essay Contest the theme is *Today's Choices Shape My Future*. Six TJ students' essays were judged by our panel of experts. Christina Danek is the club winner and her essay is now being reviewed at the District level. Second place was won by Nelson Barry and in third place was Cooper Hearne. Thanks to Gordon Heaton, the teacher at TJ who annually has his classes participate in the Optimist Essay Contest. We recognized Gordon with the Outstanding Educator Award. Our first Essay Contest winner was Loren Rice in 1986. She went on to win the District and earned a trip to the Freedom Foundation in Valley

Forge Pennsylvania. We also nominated her for the Channel 4 "Youth on the Move" Award. We can be proud of our involvement with the youth of Denver as we follow the Optimist motto *Friend of Youth*.

About 150 kids at the COPE Boys and Girls Club participated in the Monaco South TriStar Basketball competition.

There were three scored events: speed dribble, shoot, and pass, with three winners in each age group, ages 8 through 13, boys and girls, and each of the winners received beautiful trophies produced by **John Young** for the occasion. **Gary Laman** and **Jack Rife** spearheaded the project, supported by **Ron Cisco**, **Joe Marci**, **Ron Carlson** (and his grandson Jordan), **Bryce Slaby**, **Gary Strowbridge**, **John Greene**, **Howard Fry**, **Greg Young**, **John Stoffel**, and **Jim Vanderkamp**. The top kids go on to compete at the area level and could eventually end up as Stars on the floor of the Pepsi Center. Thanks to all who worked to make this a great success.

### Eagle Scout Recognition By Monaco South.

What better way to recognize the dedication, hard work and accomplishments of those young men who have attained the highest rank in Scouting than to hold an annual dinner in their honor?

On Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Denver Area Council recognized the 2007 Class of Eagle Scouts, approximately 720 strong, and their Scoutmasters. The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award was awarded to Council President M. Doak Jacoway and local businessman Harry Trueblood. Optimist Club President **Greg Young** and Past President **Donlie**



**Smith** presented eight of the new Eagle Scouts with the coveted award, the Eagle Trophy, for best project in each of the Denver districts and for the Denver Council overall

best project. Our member **Greg Hurd** is justifiably proud as the dad of Arapahoe District honoree Eagle Scout Andrew Hurd. You may recall that our club helped Andrew out with funds that he collected in order to accomplish his project. The recognition program and recipients names are displayed on the next page.

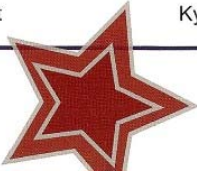
***It is a great time to be an Optimist!!***



## South Monaco Optimist Club Recognition

Each year the South Monaco Optimist Club sponsors a recognition program for outstanding Eagle Scout Service projects. The results of 2007 are as follows:

Denver Area Council	William H. Hardy IV, Troop 634
Arapahoe District	Andrew Hurd, Troop 345
Centennial District	Brent W. Last, Troop 113
Frontier District	Charlie K. Mullins, Troop 199
Gateway District	Tanner S. Ryan, Troop 2003
Pioneer Trails District	Trevor Santy, Troop 16
Timberline District	Mark Ehler, Troop 748
Valley District	Kyle Pk Flynn, Troop 524, Crew 524



### Why Leap Years Are Used February 29, 2008

The year 2008 is a leap year. If you look at a 2008 calendar, you will see that February has five Fridays—the month begins and ends on a Friday. Between the years 1904 and 2096, leap years that share the same day of week for each date repeat only every 28 years. The most recent year in which February comprised five Fridays was in 1980, and the next occurrence will be in 2036.

#### What is a leap year?

A leap year is a year in which one extra day has been inserted, or intercalated, at the end of February. A leap year consists of 366 days, whereas other years, called common years, have 365 days.

### Which years are leap years?

In the Gregorian calendar, the calendar used by most modern countries, the following three criteria determine which years will be leap years:

1. every year that is divisible by four is a leap year;
2. of those years, if it can be divided by 100, it is NOT a leap year, unless
3. the year is divisible by 400. Then it is a leap year.

According to the above criterion, that means that years 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT leap years, while year 2000 and 2400 are leap years.

It is interesting to note that 2000 was somewhat special as it was the first instance when the third criterion was used in most parts of the world.

In the Julian calendar—introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and patterned after the Roman calendar—there was only one rule: any year divisible by four would be a leap year. This calendar was used before the Gregorian calendar was adopted.

#### Why are leap years needed?

Leap years are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the earth's revolutions around the sun. Source: [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)



### Monaco South Calendar

Mar 7	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Greg Hurd: <i>Trains</i>
Mar 12	Wed	6:30 pm	Monaco South Oratorical Contest - Schlessman YMCA
Mar 14	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Scott Bates: House Candidate District 9
Mar 18	Tue	6:30 pm	MSOC Board Meeting - Eley's Office
Mar 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Craig Eley: <i>Patrick Henry</i>
Mar 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Apr 4	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Sara Winter: <i>Nye Colorado Trails Association</i>
Apr 11	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Bob Fein: <i>Sports Marketing</i>
Apr 11	Fri		Zone 9 Oratorical Contest - Windsor Gardens
Apr 18	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Apr 25	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Kristen Bertuglia: <i>Pharmaceutical and Water</i>
May 2	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Dr. Richard Flanagan: <i>Longevity</i>

## Past Presidents of the Optimist Club of Monaco South

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Kent Gloor	1992-93
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Gary Strowbridge	1993-94
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Mark Metevia	1994-95
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Bob Safe	1995-96
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Tom Overton	1996-97
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Peter Dimond	1997-98
John Young	1982-83	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Pat Bush	1983-84	Cy Regan	1999-00
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Don St. John	2001-02
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Jack Rife	2002-03
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Karl Geil	2003-04
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Bob Avery	1989-90	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Bill Litchfield.	1990-91	Paul Bernard	2006-07

## 2007 - 2008 Officers

President	Greg Young	303-759-3921
Vice President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

## Board of Directors

Russ Paul	303-750-0554
Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Bill Wells	303-757-8013
Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Jim Brown	303-671-6309
Howard Fry	303-300-4466

## Newsletter Committee

Craig Eley	303-758-9499	<a href="mailto:craig@eley.net">craig@eley.net</a>	Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net">jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net</a>
Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	<a href="mailto:rfinkelmeier@comcast.net">rfinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Bill Walters	303-697-7252	<a href="mailto:wwalters43@msn.com">wwalters43@msn.com</a>
Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	<a href="mailto:mlgoodbody@gmail.com">mlgoodbody@gmail.com</a>	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360	<a href="mailto:rwardlaw@comcast.net">rwardlaw@comcast.net</a>
Marlin Kent	303-779-0778		John Young	303-692-8202	<a href="mailto:johnandclaire@comcast.net">johnandclaire@comcast.net</a>
Jim Leuschner	720-851-7102	<a href="mailto:flyleusch@aol.com">flyleusch@aol.com</a>	Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	<a href="mailto:rzolman691@aol.com">rzolman691@aol.com</a>
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	<a href="mailto:pedersen.ralph@q.com">pedersen.ralph@q.com</a>			

## THE OPTIMIST CREED — Promise Yourself . . .

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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