



November 30, 2007
Vol. 32, Issue 9



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

Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw

JAY POLLACK, Alta Vista Center

Today's Speaker was Jay Pollack. Jay spoke about the Alta Vista Center for Autism. Jay's daughter Carissa, who is twelve, was diagnosed with autism when she was 20 months old.



Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically appears by age 3 and last throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) that affect a person's ability to communicate, to reason, and to interact with others. Today, 1 in 150 children have autism. It is more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

In Carissa's case, Jay spoke about how at 12 month's she stopped making noises of any kind. She would not communicate with her family and

would even try to leave the room rather than interact with her family. Once her condition was diagnosed, finding resources to help her and the family, were very hard to locate. Early treatment focused on the cause of her condition rather than help in dealing with daily tasks. She was not progressing and the frustration and stress was difficult on the entire family.

Colorado ranks near the bottom nationally, in resources for autistic children. Jay's family struggled to find competent help and therapy for Carissa. Of the 40 hours of recommended therapy for her, she was able to get about 10. Unable to communicate with her mom and dad, she would throw tantrums when distressed. Jay and his wife would have to guess what it was that she needed or wanted. When she started public schools in 2000, they found Douglass County was not trained to deal with the needs for autistic kids.

When Jay's family found the Alta Vista Center, it was exactly what they needed. Carissa worked with specialized therapists, trained to work with autistic children. Her progress was measurable and her ability to communicate and interact with

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Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

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

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

Good Morning Optimists!

President GREG YOUNG began the meeting by welcoming all. KARL GEIL gave the invocation. His message concerned the ability to enjoy and celebrate the success of others. He then led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: TOM MAURO introduced 2 guests at today's meeting. Paul Shaman is a longtime friend who served as Tom's campaign manager. He now concentrates on public relations and marketing. Tom also introduced Randy Marco, who grew up in the neighborhood and was recently elected the President of the U-Hills Neighborhood association.

AL GAPUZON introduced salesman extraordinaire Darryl Russ. Welcome to each of you and thank you for joining us!

Announcements: PAUL BERNARD asked volunteers to please sign up for a weekend night for the tree lot. Also, when showing up for your timeslot, please sign in to confirm you did work that time.

We are in need of help on the tree lot for December 6, 13, and 20th for the following time slots:

- 12:00 - 3:00 - Need Two
- 3:00 - 6:00 - Need Two
- 6:00 - 9:00 - Need Three

JIMMIE BROWN is your contact for filling these times.

RON CISCO announced the annual Chili Cook Off would take place December 18th. All styles of chili are welcome. Ron has graciously resigned the mantle of chef emeritus after 15 years of completely dominating this event! ROTC members from Thomas Jefferson High School will be at the lot to help and will help taste the fare.

MIKE SNIPES asked for ideas for articles for the upcoming Quarterly District magazine.

KARL GEIL announced the upcoming Brain Bowl. This popular event has grown and needs volunteers to help staff the event. If you would like to sign up for a speaking role, please see Karl.

Training session for Readers. Note, if you have already been to 2 reader training sessions and been a Brain Bowl Reader, advance reader training is optional, but signing up for an event is not. Contact Karl Geil at karl_geil@prodigy.net for your training waiver, if desired, and to sign up as a Reader. You will then have to attend the event-day training, however. And Karl has to be informed as to which event(s) you will be a reader for:

- January 5, 9:00-11:00am in Boulder

- January 10, 6:30-8:30pm @ GW High School
- January 26, 9:00-11:00am GW High School

North Region Optimist Brain Bowl

Fairview High School in Boulder
1515 Greenbriar Boulevard
Saturday, January 12, 2008

Central Region Optimist Brain Bowl

George Washington High School in Denver
655 S. Monaco Parkway
Saturday, February 2, 2008

Both start at 7:00am for volunteers.

DONLIE SMITH thanked everyone for their help at the Boys & Girls Club, and Girls, Inc. Thanksgiving Dinner. With over 600 people served, this was a wonderful night—**see special insert**.

JOE MARCI reported on the Tree Lot—in just the first week of this year's tree lot, 54 members have already worked. The club is over halfway to the goal of 100 members helping out. Students from Thomas Jefferson and George Washington will be helping out over the next two weekends, which will be our busiest sales days.

To date sales are up 30% over last year and we will need the help of the entire club to staff this volume of activity. Member's, who have not worked the past year or so, should stop by for a 3-hour shift and see what you have been missing.

Postcards were mailed to over 1,400 past customers and we have already received feedback from many thanking us for the reminder. There are flyers to hand out to neighbors and co-workers about the tree lot address and the clubs work with the youth of Denver. Let's keep this strong start going!

GARY LAMAN mentioned the December 28th breakfast for kids and grandchildren.

ED COLLINS thanked tree cutters FRED PASTERNAK, AL GAPUZAN, KENT GLOOR, BRYCE SLABY, TOM MAURO, ELDON STRONG, RUSS PAUL and OSCAR SORENSEN, and to TODD OLSON for use of his truck.

A heartfelt get well quick to TODD OLSON; he is recovering from back surgery.

CY REGAN reported grocery card sales of \$1,125 this week.

PAT SULLIVAN coordinator for Most Precious Blood Super Citizen program talked about how entertaining JACK RIFE and his dog were for the students. Pat mentioned that Jack was entertaining, but his dog won every one's heart. The dog is really special to see. Great job Jack!

Pollack, continued

others was dramatic. Jay recalled the joy of hearing his daughter say, "Hi Dad." She now has a team of 4 therapists who are able to monitor her and develop a specialized plan for her development.

The center is funded by families of children with autism and partly by schools who have children who attend the center. They are in need of support of all kinds. Financial to help with daily needs, people who have experienced with non profits to serve on the board, even volunteers to help with grounds upkeep. Alta Vista is the first treatment center of its kind in Denver and is doing wonderful work with children who need their help. Their vision: To help children reach their potential and become contributing members of their families and communities.

Note from CO-WY Optimist Governor

Hope you and yours had a Happy Thanksgiving! Be sure to reserve February 8-10 for the 2nd Quarter Conference! Talk this up to your clubs! Sheryl Overton, our Quarter Conference Chair, assures me that this will be a real "Sweetheart" of a weekend. We will have some great training sessions, time to share projects and a chance to meet our Regional Vice President, Chris Jernigan and his wife Marlene.

Please consider becoming a member of the "Dime a Day" Club of the OI Foundation. For only \$36.50, you can lead by example, as we will be asking all members to join the "Dime a Day" club.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to help you be successful in your year. Remember, we

have just 10 more months to strive for success and the rest of our lives to think about what we accomplished.

Yours In Optimism,
Super Optimist George Buzick and
Zone 9 Lt. Governor, Dottie Jefferies

Monday morning GUMS

The Monday morning GUMS mailing effort moved from JIM LEUSCHNER'S old RE-Max office (we were there every Monday for many years) to MARLIN KENT'S home at Quincy Place. Shown are DICK ZOLMAN, JIM PICCINELLI, RALPH PEDERSEN, JIM LEUSCHNER (standing), MARC GOODBODY and MARLIN KENT (sitting). The Lovely lady standing amid all these thorns is Carol



Curtis the Marketing Director at Quincy Place. Since we seem to have taken residence with Marlin every Monday to fold, staple, and stamp the Monaco South Newsletter (GUMS), Carol graciously invited us to "breakfast" with Marlin before commencing work.

A great big THANK YOU to Carol and Quincy Place for a super breakfast and for providing us space to crank out GUMS!

Monaco South Calendar

Dec 7	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Donna Aazira, <i>Breathing for Life</i>
Dec 14	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Craig Ross, <i>Stop the Elephant in the Office</i>
Dec 18	Tue	6:30 pm	MSOC Board Meeting—Eley's Office
Dec 21	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Camaraderie Day, <i>Holiday White Elephant Exchange</i>
Dec 22	Sat	8:30 am	Christmas Baskets—Legion Hall
Dec 28	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Kids & Grandkids to Breakfast
Jan 5	Sat	9:00-11:00 am	Reader Training in Boulder
Jan 10	Thur	6:30-8:30 pm	Reader Training, George Washington HS
Jan 12	Sat	7:00 am	North Region Brain Bowl, Fairview HS in Boulder
Feb 2	Sat	7:00 am	Central Region Brain Bowl, George Washington HS

**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
Bill Walters	1991-92		

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

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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

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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	pedersen.ralph@q.com	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360	rlawardlaw@comcast.com

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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ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES**

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