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# 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—Bill Walters

### Two Pleas and A Story

(First the story of the Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Beers— the pleas are on the inside.)

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 Beers.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes.”

“Now,” said the professor as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things—your family, children, health, friends, passions—and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your house, your car, your job, etc.

“The sand is everything—the small stuff. If you put sand in first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on small stuff you will never have room for the things that are really important. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your parents, your grandparents. Play another 18. Take the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One student raised her hand and said, “What about the two beers?”

The professor responded, “The Beer shows that no matter how full your life seems, there's always time for a couple of Beers with a friend.”



#### 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 Optimist

**Ralph Pedersen** and **Nick Newey** greeted us this morning. Even though half of our membership was in Breckenridge for the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist Convention, fifty members showed up this Friday. Is this a great club or what?

**Bob Avery** provided the invocation that everything goes well in Denver this week during the DNC. Incoming President, **Phil Perington** presided admirably. However, he needs more seasoning on his jokes. Example: "When you pay that \$2 for a bottle of Evian water, remember that spelled backwards is Naïve." Bryce, are you listening?

### Guests

**Randy Marcove** introduced a new member and a guest. **Steve Yates** is our newest member. A native of Colorado, Steve, his wife Minay along with sons Ben and Cody reside in Englewood where Steve owns a sales business. Remember the "Therma Freeze" ice cube sheets? He is a Past Master of the Englewood Masonic Lodge. Welcome aboard Steve!

Adiel Brasov was our guest. He is a Romanian immigrant who has been in the U.S. since 1981. Merrill Lynch is where Adiel works and Ride the Rockies is where he plays. Join us again Adiel!

### Announcements

**Peter Diamond**, who had 20 tickets remaining for the Fort Lupton Optimist Duck Race, sold them outright after he won the pot by picking the 9 of hearts. The bugle announcing the ducks will sound at 2:00pm on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Weld County Crossroads 6 and 19, right outside Fort Lupton, CO.

**Joe Marci** reminded us that on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Alzheimer's Society is holding their annual MEMORY WALK in City Park. MSOC has helped with this walk/run for more than 10 years. We will serve as marshals on the course for the KIDS' run at 7:30am, for the ADULT run at 8:00am and for the Memory Walk at 9:00am. Volunteers need to be at City Park (near the Zoo/Museum of Natural History area) at 7:00am. Breakfast will be available. Call **Joe Marci** at 303-771-3748 if you can help.

The Sullivan Scholarship Fundraiser is the 2009 *Entertainment Book*. They are now available for \$25 per **Joe Marci**. You can get books for many large cities in the USA. Call Joe at 303-771-3748 to support this great cause.

**Bob Avery** reported that one of his Eagle Scout's sisters is in the synchronized swimming competition at the Beijing Olympics. Janet Cult made the finals. Her twin sister competed but was eliminated from the finals.

**Super Market Sales:** You thought it was a big deal that **Peter Dimond** won the jackpot? Not really! The really big deal is when **Cy Regan** announced that we sold \$1,775 in Super Market cards. Way to sell those cards Cy.

**Breakfast Cost:** Starting September 5<sup>th</sup>, breakfast will go from \$6 to \$7. Still a bargain at twice the price! Our own MSOC Chief **John Marinos** does a wonderful job keeping us fed and we really appreciate all his efforts. Thanks John! YOU ROCK!!

**Don Thomson** pleaded for someone to step forward to head the Super Citizens project at Holm Elementary. **Bob Hugo** is stepping down after years of serving as coordinator for Holm. The Super Citizen Program at Holm is done only three times during the school year. So if you can take this project on it will be part-time and your participation will be greatly appreciated.

**Don StJohn** and his wife Char are stepping down after the October session as Bingo Managers. They raised their hands to be the Bingo Managers ten years ago. This fundraiser for MSOC generates about \$2,500 per year. The Bingo event is run every fourth Thursday of the month at Berry's Bingo on Federal and Jewell Boulevard. The Bingo Manager must get trained and is in charge of ensuring enough helpers to setup and cleanup from 5:30pm to 9:30pm each time. Tamarac Optimist Club also participates with volunteers. If no one steps forward, we will discontinue this project. Not good! Please HELP!

### Speaker

Ken Wiig was our speaker this morning. Ken told us about the SECOND WIND WALK/RUN/RIDE.

Second Wind is a seven year old volunteer organization fighting to prevent teen suicide.

Teen suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of teen deaths in Colorado. Ken lost his 17 year old daughter, Myrna, seven years ago. That same year, four young male students from Green Mountain High School took their lives. After that Second Wind started and took matters into their own hands by holding a walk/run fundraiser for counseling. It costs about \$100/hr for mental health counseling and many times insurance only pays a small fraction of the cost. Plus, the stigma attached to mental health also keeps teens from seeking help. The first year 66 volunteer's participants and they raised \$4,000. Last year the Walk/Ride had 2,700 participants.

So far, Second Wind has helped over 1,200 teens in the Denver Metro area with counseling, and to Ken's knowledge, they are all thriving today.

The Second Wind Walk/Run/Ride takes place on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Green Mountain High School and only costs \$25 to participate. You can learn more about this organization and this upcoming fundraiser at: <http://www.thesecondwindfund.org/>.

## Optimist of the Quarter: Tom Mauro



Tom Mauro (L) is congratulated as Optimist of the Quarter by President Greg Young.

Photo by Don StJohn

For **Tom Mauro** volunteering activities have been instrumental throughout his adult life. Tom was elected President of the Denver School Board of Education in 1989 after serving on the School Improvement and Accountability Committee, PTA, and many other school committees. He also was the treasurer of Schlessman YMCA, president of Monaco South Optimist Club, served on the business advisory board of the Community Technical Skills Center, and was fundraising chairman for the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund. In his spare time he coached his daughters' softball and basketball teams.

Tom was one of the founders of Destination ImagiNation (DI), a creative problem solving competition for students pre-K through grade 12. Tom and Joie (Tom's wife) have coached nine state championship teams for Odyssey of the Mind and Brain Bowl. One of these teams went on to win the world championship and the others finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and all have finished in the top 10. Daughters Amy and Andrea have participated on all of those teams. Tom and Joie have a unique perspective on how public

education can succeed as a result of these activities.

In 1989, Tom visited four cities in the Soviet Union as a member of the State Legislature Initiative to the U.S.S.R. to investigate educational and business opportunities.

Currently occupies his time by serving as Executive Director of Colorado Performance Excellence (CEPx) a statewide program dedicated to enabling Colorado organizations to evolve and succeed through the effective application of the principles and practices embodied in the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. CPEX is one of more than 45 similar state programs that exist throughout the U.S. It serves all Colorado organizations regardless of size, type, or economic sector. Any organization or individual seriously committed to reaping the many benefits of systematic performance improvement can benefit from participating in the CPEX community.

Born and schooled in Pueblo, Tom has a BA from Colorado School of Mines in Golden and a Masters Degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado. He was formally a SVP Mainframe Info Systems, at FirstBank Data Corporation and VP Administrative Systems at Norwest Technical Services.

Oh, and if you are a baseball fan, go to a Rockies game with Tom sometime. He knows all the statistics and all the history of everyone playing. BUT, most importantly he is proud Grandpa of a grandson and a three week old granddaughter. Carry on Tom!

### Monaco South Calendar

Aug 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Judith Stucky, <i>Cochlear Kids Camp</i>
Sept 5	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Sunne Reif, <i>Donor Alliance</i>
Sept 12	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Kris Kroncke, <i>District 3 Commander, Denver Police Department</i>
Sept 13	Sat	6:00 pm	<u>Yearend &amp; Installation Banquet</u> - Blossoms Restaurant at Heather Ridge, 2888 South Heather Gardens Way, Aurora
Sept 16	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Sept 19	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - <u>Camaraderie &amp; 100% Day</u>
Sept 26	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker TBA

## 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

## Board of Directors

Russ Paul	720-941-6161
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:jpccinelli@earthlink.net">jpccinelli@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:rlawardlaw@comcast.net">rlawardlaw@comcast.net</a>
Marlin Kent	303-779-0778		John Young	303-692-8202	<a href="mailto:johnandclaire@comcast.net">johnandclaire@comcast.net</a>
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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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