



December 7, 2007
Vol. 32, Issue 10



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—Bill Walters

Happy Chanukah to all of our Jewish Friends

Every year between November and December, probably the best known Jewish holiday is celebrated. Chanukah (with various spellings) is also known as the festival of lights, because each night a new candle is lit on a special candelabra. Chanukah is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Hebrew month, Kislev. Because the Hebrew months are based on the moon, and not the sun, Chanukah's place on the Secular calendar varies from year to year. Here is the story: Long, long ago, before your grandfather or your great-grandfather was ever born, in the land of Judea, there was a Syrian king named Antiochus. The king did not like the Jews, and ordered them to give up their God, their religion, their customs, and their beliefs. Antiochus wanted the Jews to worship the Greek gods. Now, the Jews did not like this, but they did as they were told, because they were afraid of the king. However, one Jew decided that he was not going to be bullied around by Antiochus and his army. This man's name was Judah Maccabee.

Judah and his brothers formed an army to fight back at Antiochus. They called themselves the "Maccabees" or "hammers." The Maccabees were vastly outnumbered but fought hard and after three years of "guerrilla fighting" they finally drove the Syrians out of Israel, reclaiming the Temple in Jerusalem. They began the long and hard task of cleaning up the temple and removing all the Greek symbols. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, they finished the job and rededicated the temple. Then they wanted to relight the eternal light, other wise know as the N'er Tamid. The N'er Tamid is an oil lamp present in every Jewish house of worship, and once lit should never be extinguished. After the lamp was lit, it was realized that all the oil had been stolen or smashed by the Syrians and it would take 8 days to travel and get more. However, a miracle occurred, and the candle stayed lit eight days, until they could get more oil. Today, Jews celebrate Chanukah to mark the rededication of the temple, the victory over the Syrians, and the miracle of the N'er Tamid. The word Chanukah means "rededication" and the festival lasts eight days to mark the eight days over which the small amount of oil lasted.

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!

After we were greeted by OC LARSON and TOM McKEE, and before JIM BROWN gave the invocation, he reminded us that on this date (December 7th, 1942, the "Day that Shall Live in Infamy") the Japanese raided the US fleet at Pearl Harbor. This was one of the great defining moments in History. MARK GOODBODY was in the service and was on a ship in the Pacific ocean when the bomb was dropped. We honored and gave thanks to Mark and all the MS members who served our country. It was also announce that a special ceremony would be held at the American Legion post where we gather to recognize those who served and those who died on this day.

Special Guests

CARL GEIL introduced a classmate of his at DU, Brian Lang. TOM MARUO (who was not present and is recuperating from a bad fall while changing a light bulb) had several of his guests there, however. Present were Paul Shaman and Randy Marco. Welcome to all—come back and join us!

Jim Easton

JIM ESTON was given his new member plaque. Did you know that Jim is one of "triplets"? Two boys and a girl.

He is also a 1992 National Snowboard champion. Jim and his wife have 2 children. Jim works for Time Warner

Chile Cook Off

RON CISCO announced that the famous Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday, December 15th. All styles of chili are welcome. You' all come early, eat lots of chili and work it off by selling lots of trees.

Tree Lot

JOE MARCI told us that the 10 foot Santa and Frosty the Snowman, atop our trailer, is visible to all who drive down Monaco and brings in lots of customers. There have been 81 different MS members selling trees to date. Our goal is to get 100 members to sell trees. We need 19 of the remaining 49 members sign up and help us with this terrific fund raiser. Sales are brisk and customers enjoy meeting friendly OPTIMISTS. No one has been seen leaving the lot without a tree, wreath or other Christmas product. We can be proud of our 30 years serving the SE Denver area with quality trees. This past Thursday,

PRESIDENT GREG was seen driving a big rig at the tree lot with over 300 trees loaded on it. He missed the power pole when he was trying to stop that rig—air brakes with out air?

Tree Lot Helper

Many students from George Washington High School will be doing their volunteer work by sell trees with us. One of the great things about being in our/any Optimist Club is that you get to meet and work with our youth. There are lots of great kids out there. They just don't get the press because it's not negative! Thank you all

Tree Decorating Contest

This year we will be decorating trees for a good cause. The Optimist Club of Monaco South is donating eleven trees for the Denver Public Schools to decorate. The decorated trees will be delivered to needy families of Denver Public Schools students along with the Optimist Club's annual delivery of Christmas Food Baskets.

The decorated trees will be judged on Wednesday, December 12 at 11:00AM by Optimist Club members JOHN YOUNG, FRED PASTERNAK, and KENT GLOOR. Afterwards the school district will deliver the trees to the Optimist club tree lot. The trees will subsequently be delivered to needy families.

Pictures of the event and the results of the judging will be included in an upcoming GUMS newsletter. This information will also be submitted to the Rocky Mountain News crediting the DPS facility management department and all involved for making this a joyous Christmas for all those in need.

Good to see TODD OLSON at breakfast this morning, even though he was walking with a cane. He is getting stronger and looking healthy.

CRAIG ELEY reported that there is no evidence that the Denver Broncos are using "performance enhancing drugs." We all agreed.

FRED PASTERNAK'S son is selling a \$7,000 diamond ring. A real steal for someone that needs a stocking stuffer.

PERSIDENT GREG reminded that we should not forget to participate in the \$2 morning coffee. Place your \$2 in the coffee collection can right next to the coffee pot or give it to DON St JOHN.



Brain Bowl

CARL GEIL told us about the upcoming Brain Bowl. Great Event! Helpers needed!

WHEN, WHERE, and WHAT TIME:

North Region Optimist Brain Bowl on Jan 12th

Fairview H.S. (FV) in BOULDER

1515 Greenbrier Blvd (carpooling OK!)

Volunteers be there at 7AM

Central Region Optimist Brain Bowl on Feb 2nd

George Washington H.S. (GW) in DENVER

655 S. Monaco Parkway

Volunteers be there at 7AM

Training: Readers training for this year's BB is optional, if you have read before. Signing up is not optional. Training times and locations are:

- Jan 5 - 9am to 11am at FV in BOULDER
- Jan 10 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm at GW in DENVER
- Jan 26 - 9am to 11am at GW in DENVER

Super Citizenship by Joe Marci

BRADLEY Elem. 303-756-8386

Tom McKee, rep 303-755-2440

Presenter on FRIDAY, DEC 21st

RANDY MARCOVE at 3pm

HAMILTON M.S. 570-423-9502

Tom Mauro, rep 720-859-9300

Presenter on THURSDAY, Dec 13th

PAUL BERNARD at 5:30pm

HOLM Elem. 303-751-3157

Donlie Smith, rep 303-759-0380

MCMEEN Elem. 303-388-5649

Don Thomson, rep 303-757-4273

Presenter on WEDNESDAY, Dec 19th

Jack Rife at 1:30PM and 2:15pm

M.P.B. 303-757-1279

Pat Sullivan, rep 303-757-4519

Presenter on WEDNESDAY, Dec 19th

Don Illey at 2:30am (just kidding Don-it's PM)

SAMUELS Elem. 303-770-2215

Bob Hugo, rep 303-758-9409

What a salesman that CY REGAN is! He reported that we hit a NEW RECORD by purchasing \$3,000 in King Soopers & Safeway cards

DONALD KIPP, NCTMB, was our speaker this morning. He told us "If you are not as tall as you should be, You're not as well as you could be." He showed us how he could make us taller AND THEN PROVED THAT BY MAKING FREDDY AND RON CARLSON BOTH TALLER.

Don has practiced natural health care, natural pain relief and bio-structural bodywork for the last 20 years. The healing system he developed is Neuroenergetic Release (NER), which is like acupuncture. In NER therapy, the practitioners use their hands to hit targets in the body to release structural imbalances, which then provides an immediate sense of well-being.

ELDON STRONG will be thinking of us from his home in Tucson, AZ for the next three months.

We'll welcome you back in the Spring, Eldon!

Monaco South Website

Thanks to Paul Bernard, we have a fabulous website for our club. We will highlight this valuable resource in a future issue, but in the interim check it out. Go to: <http://www.monacosouth.org/>

Calendar

To get your event and date in the calendar below, get it to the GUMS editors. THANK YOU!

Monaco South Calendar

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 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

Newsletter Committee

Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net	Bob Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net
John Young	303-692-8202	johnandclaire@comcast.net	Marc Goodbody	303-202-1610	mlgoodbody@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com	Craig Eley	303-758-9499	craig@eley.net
Bill Walters	303-697-7252	wwalters43@msn.com	Marlin Kent	303-779-0778	
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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