



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 23, 2011 – Vol. 37, Issue 12



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 35 Years

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—John Oss



MERRY CHRISTMAS — HAPPY HANUKKAH



Good Morning Optimists

Our **Ron's**, **Cisco** and **Carlson** warmed all who entered with a smile and a handshake.

Opening Bell

Ron Cisco gave the opening invocation and the led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Fred Pasternack introduced his guest **Bill Brown**. A retired Denver Police officer. Jerry, the painter, got the next billing. **John Oss** introduced his grandson **Brandon** who worked several days at the tree lot. Thanks **Brandon**, and welcome all!

Announcements

Tree Lot Update: **Joe Marci** provided a report on weeks activities and shared that this year's tree lot set a new record with 101 different members helping to sell trees. He shared that we sold 343 trees in one weekend and that the 101 workers and 343 trees are new highs. He also reported that there were also a few low days when the snow storms limiting customer flow. But overall we did great! Thanks to all who helped out this year!

Joe also reminded us that we will clear the lot on Friday, December 30th after our meeting. Help is needed for a couple hours to move the materials to the warehouse. Members who worked and bought trees and other



Gary Strowbridge locks the Christmas Tree lot trailer door for the last time in 2011.

Photo Steve Kady

items will receive their invoices next week. Once you receive your invoice, please pay treasurer **Greg Young** before the end of January. Make checks payable to Optimist Club of Monaco South.

Christmas Food Baskets: **Mike Chavez** had 27 members report in to distributed food baskets. In addition, their children and grandchildren joined them to support the endeavor. Members who were present were: **Randy Marcove**, **Don St. John**, **Nick Newey**, **Fred Pasternack**, **Cy Regan**, **Donlie Smith**, **Jack Kitchell**, **Tom Wos**, **Greg Young**, **John Oss**, **OC Larson**, **Gary Strowbridge**, **Russ Paul**, **Phil Perington**, **Ron Gustas**, **Gary Miller**, **Oscar Sorensen**, **Terry Shroyer**, **John Young**, **Jon Watcher**, **Bob Finkelmeier**, **Kent Gloor**, **Greg Hurd**, **Wyatt McCallie**, **Karl Geil**, and **Allen Pierce**. All had a piece in the action to make this successful. Thank you **Mike** for a fine job!

Janna Hugo Memorial: **Mike Chavez** also reported that the memorial service for **Janna** will be Monday, December 26th. It will be held at Saint Michael and All Angels' Church, 1400 South University Boulevard. Our father and son members **Bob** and **Dan Hugo** can use your thoughts and prayers.

Chili Cook-off Winner: **Ron Cisco**, master culinarian chili chef, announced that **Jon Wachter** won with his special chili, while **Kent Gloor**, **Tom Charters**, **Phil Perington**, and **Curt Jefferies** were runners up. For the editor, they were all great!



Meeting Place
American Legion Hall Post 1
5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado
Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am
****INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN****

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Santa, aka **Oscar Sorensen**, with his Donald Trump hairdo, red sweater, and Santa cap was in his best form this year and got everyone involved in the exchange of presents. He started it off with **Randy Marcove** receiving some new sporting equipment. Okay!

As shown below, are all the MSOC Kids lined up to take their turn.



Freddie Pasternack and guest **Bill Brown**, enjoy a true "White Elephant" gift. Thank you Santa!

Some of the other OUTSTANDING GIFTS handed out include the following...



Jon Wachter received a stylish "white dress coat" that nearly fit and a flashy pink tie to complete the ensemble.



Don Iley, left, received a stylish Christmas Tree strand of lights hat; however, he couldn't get them to work. While chef **John Marinos** shows off his "overworked, underpaid, and a few other 'under's" not suitable here coffee cup.



On left, the editors grandson, **Brandon** received a Christmas Angel ornament after pulling out all of the paper. And on the right, **Karl Geil** and **Tom Wos** enjoyed the moment.



Mike McMahon, right, one of our new members and Super Citizen speaker came away with a new Lotus — Well a picture of a new Lotus!

And Santa himself, **Oscar Sorensen**, received this matching pair of Ronald and Nancy Reagan Christmas mantel stockings to hang on his chimney with care.



Unfortunately, even after three attempts of receiving a gift **Ron Carlson** did not get his "perfect gift" or get his picture taken. Sorry Ron, maybe next year!

Photos Don StJohn and John Oss.

Announcements Continued

Favorite Christmas Song or Dashing Through the Snow: During the morning meeting, **Phil Perington** gathered votes for favorite Christmas songs. He reports...

...the always entertaining Santa Claus White Elephant gift exchange, gallantly led by Santa Oscar, culminated with members registering their favorite Christmas song in an ad hoc poll bearing no relationship to anything whatsoever. However, it must be reported that of the 45 entries *Silent Night* was the run-away winner with 12 votes. Bunched closely together were *Jingle Bells* (1 vote for the barking dogs version), *Oh Holy Night*, *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*, and *Little Drummer Boy*. A couple of long shots were *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer* and the classic *I Yust go Nuts at Christmas*, by Ole Yorgenson, an engineer at a Chicago NBC radio station (date unknown).

Other favorites included *Noel*, *Do you see what I see*, *If you just Believe*, *Joy to the World*, *Silver Bells*, *Infant Holy Infant Holy*, and *Away in the Manger*, an old version.

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, *Handel's Messiah* (Hallelujah Chorus), *Draydel Draydel Draydel!* and *Deck the Halls*.

On the jovial and less traditional lighter side we also had *Ring de Bells* (Calypso tin pan drum style), *Frosty the Snowman*, *Must be Santa*, *Run, Run Rudolph*, the Chuck Berry version of *Rock around the Christmas Tree*, *Feliz Navidad*, *It's Christmastime* *Pretty Baby*, *Meke*, *Kaliki Maka*, by der Bingo and Andrews Sisters, and not to be forgotten the one and only *All I want for Christmas is my two Front Teeth!*

It looks like we have a ton of good cheer and camaraderie at

this fun and joyous time of year. Did anybody see *Santa kissing Mamma?*

Closing Bell

The pot was up to \$120 this week. Many tried for the 2 of Spades, but no winners. Wait until next week!



The Editor's Story

It was a dark and stormy night. Four Optimists from the Optimist Club of Monaco South were slogging their way through the forest, when what to their surprise, there arose such a clatter. They turned this way and that, but could not see what was the matter. They continued on to their quest: to find and harvest the finest Christmas tree that could be had—one of them called it a Hanukkah bush. As they climbed the rise, a star arose to the East. "Hark!" They shouted. The hairy angels sing! And lo, before them was the largest Christmas Tree/Hanukkah bush lot that they ever did see. And they said, "Let us go forth unto the lot, and sell as many trees as we can, and we will support youth, throughout the land."

And so it was, from that day until eternity, that the three wise men, Sheppard Joe, Muleskinner Mike, and Quaestor Ralph embarked on a life long journey, led by King Randy.

~Anon

Weekly Greeters

Date	Greeters
12/30/11	Rich Mahoney & Fred Pasternack
1/6/12	Joe Marci & James Riley
1/13/12	Paul Stratton & James Riley
1/20/12	Woody Thibodeau & Nick Newey
1/27/12	Bob Avery & Jim Riley



Super Citizen Presenters for January

4 @ 2:30 pm	Highline	Joe Marci
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See the 2012 Brain Bowl dates for events and training on the Optimist GUMS transmittal e-mail.

Monaco South Calendar

Dec 25 Sun Merry Christmas 
 Dec 30 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Kids to Breakfast & Camaraderie
 Jan 1 Sun 2012 Happy New Year 
 Jan 6 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - The Brain Bowl is Coming!
 Jan 9 Mon 6:30 pm New Member Orientation, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
 Jan 13 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Leslie Pera, Boys Hope Girls Hope
 Jan 18 Wed 6:30 pm Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
 Jan 20 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
 Jan 21 Sat 7:00 am North Region Brain Bowl, Superior High School in Louisville, CO
 Jan 27 Fri 7:00 am Meeting, Legion Hall - Karen Blackman, Colorado Oral-Deaf Pre-school

Christmas Memories

Earlier this week, your editor solicited OCMS members to share a short write-up of a special Christmas memory. His request incorporated, "If it is Optimist related, that's really great. I'll take the best and publish them in the newsletter this weekend." He even provided an example as shown below.

My memory is of the great taste of Karen Pasternack's pastries. Freddie has demonstrated great warmth by sharing Karen's and his love during this Christmas season. I trust Freddie and Karen will celebrate a great Chanukah. Oh how we are all blessed!

John Oss, GUMS editor for December

After receiving and reviewing all that he received the two that were selected, in no specific order, are reproduced here. Enjoy!

From Our Prez

Most of my Holiday memories are resplendent with family gatherings, FOOD, gift exchanges, and great times. As a member of OCMS, I now also include the Tree Lot, its unpredictable coffee, and the great camaraderie there.

Just a week ago Saturday I was getting my hair cut, and was sharing a story with the woman whom cuts my hair about our club and our delivering of Christmas Baskets to those in need earlier in the morning. I also told her about the extra basket that Oscar Sorensen had (and admitted to having!) and that I claimed dibs on it. Why?

Some of you may remember my 12 year old son Max's friend Gavin. He was one of Max's buddies that helped us pick up, assemble, and deliver Thanksgiving Baskets last month. Gavin's 37 year old mom Mindy was recently diagnosed with Stage 2B Breast Cancer, and had her second dose of chemotherapy about two weeks ago. The insidious disease (and treatment) is taking its toll on her health, as well as the family finances. Gavin told Max that he and his little 3 year old brother Owen won't be getting many, if any, Christmas gifts this year because, "We don't have any money."

I took that Christmas Basket over to Gavin's house as soon as Oscar showed up with it. A beautiful and bald-headed Mindy answered the door, and welcomed us in with an ear-to-ear curious smile. Little Owen earnestly grabbed the Freddy Pasternack stuffed animal and ran away squealing in guileless delight. Once the basket was explained, we were soon smothered in hugs of appreciation by all, and I even got a kiss from their old German Shepherd Brody. It made my day.

My barber's name is Cassandra. She was touched by the story. I received a text message from her Thursday asking if I was going to be at my house in the afternoon, and asked for my address and direc-

tions. I thought that maybe she would be dropping off a six-pack or something, so I gladly obliged. To my dumbstruck surprise, she showed up with a bin FULL of wrapped Christmas presents for Gavin and Owen!!! This time it was me with the ear-to-ear curious smile. I was probably squealing too!

Cassandra shared with me that she does something like this every year for a family in need, and wanted to do her part to help. Wow! I think I better give her a bigger tip next time!

Gavin's family lives about four blocks away, and I made it there under 60 seconds, in the snow. They were home, and graciously welcomed us inside. Even Brody kissed me again. I digress. Mindy chimed, "You must be full of Christmas Spirit!" as she saw the abundance of presents. Having the benefit of being just the messenger again, I quickly paid the credit where it was due - to Cassandra. We were again smothered with hugs of appreciation, and even a few G-d Bless's were thrown in.

I am glad there are people like Cassandra in our community. I am honored that I was able to witness two incredibly generous good-deeds for such a wonderful family in need. I am blessed to have a truly genuine and wonderful new Christmas memory. Chanukah too! I am grateful that my children have this inspiring Christmas memory too, and now understand that there is much more to the holiday than just opening presents. It certainly made my Holiday.

Thank you Oscar, thank you Michael Chavez for initially creating the mistake, and thank you OCMS for making this a VERY SPECIAL Christmas (and Chanukah) for me!

G-d Bless, Randy



On left, Miss Lisa Zinn, ECE teacher at Bradley International, a.k.a. Mrs. Claus, and yours truly. This was taken by Shannon Scott, a Bradley International parent, as well as the producer/engineer for KOA's Morning Show and CU Buffalo games.

Hair-nets and all, Miss Lisa and I were caught serving Thanksgiving Meals to the BI kids and their participating parents—in all we served 540 meals this year on Broncos Thursday, November 17th.

Miss Lisa has been volunteering her service and time for the last 14 years for this meal, and I have been at her side for the last 8 of them. It was a great time!

Christmas Memories Continued



Santa and Mrs. Claus, aka Lisa Zinn. Santa is a professional who helped train our amateur Santa's.

Check out all the MSOC Santa pictures at: Monacosouthsanta2011

From Craig Eley

Smarter Than My Dad

One of my first Christmas memories is when I was about 4 years old. My father told me that Santa's elves were on our roof, and if I looked into the fireplace, maybe I could find candy that they dropped down the chimney. I went over to the fireplace, which fortunately had no fire in it, and there was a piece of candy, wrapped in paper. I was very excited, and peered up into the chimney to see if I could catch sight of the elves. I turned to my dad and said "I can't see anything," and he said "look, they threw some more candy down." And I found more candy in the fireplace. Every 10 seconds or so more would fall into the fireplace, until I had a handful.

Some 30 years later, when I had three little kids of my own, I remembered that Christmas. I thought it would be great to do the same thing for my children. I didn't relish the idea of climbing up two stories on my cold, windy roof and dropping candy into the fireplace, like a neighbor of my Dad's must have. No, that was unsafe and foolhardy. I'm smarter than that, I said to myself, so I pondered the problem for a few days.

What I finally dreamed up was a lot more complicated but a lot more safe than my dad's method. First, I had to make sure my youngest child, Brian, was out of his room for awhile. So my wife, Cindy, got the kids involved in making Christmas cookies downstairs in the kitchen. Brian's room has a window directly over the front door and the concrete sidewalk that leads from the street to the house.

I opened Brian's window and took the screen off of it. I shut the door so the hall light would not show into the room, and I turned off the lights in the room. Then I snuck downstairs and gave Cindy the high sign, and she told the kids that she thought she heard elves on the roof. We didn't count on the fact that kids would immediately start to run upstairs to see if they could hear the elves, too. Cindy was able to head them off and suggested that if they looked outside, maybe they would see candy that the elves might throw from the roof.

Upstairs, standing in a dark room with the cold winter wind whistling in, I could barely hear Cindy. I threw

some candy out the window onto the front walk. The kids came running out of the house, and the first thing they did was look up to see the elves. I jumped back from the window just in time to not be seen. After that, I had to stand far from the window and whip the candy out, making sure that it got out of the window and straight on the to front walk and not into the snow on either side where the kids would get cold and wet retrieving it. I threw some far out to the sidewalk, and as the kids went out to get it, it gave me time to run downstairs so that when they turned around to come back into the house they would see me standing there, as if I had been standing there behind them all along. Then as they looked out the door, waiting for more candy, I snuck back upstairs and threw more out the window.

It was a lot of effort, but it was worth it. The kids had a great time.

A few days later my Dad came for Christmas. When we were out of earshot of the kids, I told him that I had remembered what he had done all those Christmases ago, and I did the same thing, albeit with a much-improved method, which did not require anyone to be up on the roof in the winter.

"Up on the roof?" my Dad said. "No one was up on the roof. I had the candy in my pocket, and whenever you weren't looking I just tossed a piece in the fireplace. You were just a toddler, and were too dumb to figure it out."

I guess I still am.



Craig Eley in his St. Patrick's Day finest. Sorry, the editor couldn't find a good picture of one of our photographers.



Here is another example of a Christmas candy throwing activity. Possibly next year Craig!

**Past Presidents of the
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Mark Metevia	1994-95
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Bob Safe	1995-96
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Tom Overton	1996-97
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Cy Regan	1999-00
John Young	1982-83	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Pat Bush	1983-84	Don St. John	2001-02
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Jack Rife	2002-03
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Karl Geil	2003-04
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Bob Avery	1989-90	Greg Young	2007-08
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bill Walters	1991-92	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Ed Collins	2010-11
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94		

2011 - 2012 Officers

President	Randy S. Marcove	303-667-3663
Vice President	Frank Ross	720-210-8809
Vice President	Howard Fry	303-601-5088
Secretary	Jack Rife	303-349-1280
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

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Wyatt McCallie	303-759-2275
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John Oss	303-973-7934
Allen Pierce	303-833-8506
James Riley	303-472-3652
Jim Tapp	303-503-8043
Brian Williams	720-253-5731
Ed Collins (Past Pres.)	303-905-7572

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Dec **John Oss**; Jan **George Buzick**; Feb **Robert Wardlaw**

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.