



January 18, 2008  
Vol. 32, Issue 16



# 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— Craig Eley

## Food, Fun, Money & Magic Featured At Monaco South Holiday Party

The Monaco South Holiday Party kicked off at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008 at the Canyon Club Condominiums Clubhouse. About 75 MSOCers and their spouses and friends partook of the copious amounts of food and the often animated conversation. There were many appetizers, salads and desserts from which to choose, and main courses of honey baked ham and smoked turkey breast.

A blind drawing of names by **Becky Olson** resulted



in her husband, **Todd**, being chosen to play “Money Go South,” a game curiously similar to TV’s “Deal or No Deal.” With \$100 at stake, Todd opened envelopes to eliminate less-desirable outcomes, while **Craig Eley** and **Greg Young** threw incentives at him to stop playing. Despite being enticed by offers of the entire contents of a **John Young** storage locker, a book of **Bryce Slaby**’s favorite jokes, or a free divorce courtesy of attorney **Karl Geil**, Todd hung on to reel in \$50!

*(continued on page 6)*

**Meeting Place**  
**American Legion Hall Post 1**  
**5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado**  
**Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.**

## Proceedings of the Meeting of January 18, 2008

### Invocation & Pledge

**Jim Easton** gave an invocation which reminded us that each day is a miracle. Then he led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Theft Alert

Thieves are everywhere, reported President **Greg Young**. He noted that even the District 3 Police Station was broken into recently, and the thieves stole all the toilet fixtures. The police, who would like to catch the thieves, "have absolutely nothing to go on."

### Guest

**Jim Easton's** daughter, **Emily** attended our meeting and enticed us with the prospect of Girl Scout cookies.

### Thank-You Notes

The Club received a thank-you note from a family that received one of our Christmas food baskets, which related that "our hearts were warm and our bellies were full." We also received a note from the Boys & Girls Club for the Thanksgiving dinner and the Christmas trees we gave them.

### Best One Liner So Far of 2008

**Phil Perington** made a report on "A Night with Benjamin Franklin" (see his article in this issue) and mentioned that it was difficult to



figure out how to get from the North High parking lot into the building. Phil directed a question to **Fred Pasternack**, asking "Freddie, you went to school at North, how long did it take you to get in?" **Tom Mauro** then jumped in with his own query, "Freddie, how long did it take you to get out?"

### Lost & Found

A small pearl which looks like it is part of an earring was found at the Holiday Party. Also,

someone left behind a cake slicer with a white handle. These items will be brought to the next Friday meeting.

### Valentine's Breakfast is February 15

This year's Valentine's Breakfast, where each Monaco South member can bring his wife or friend (but preferably not both) to a special meeting, will be Friday, February 15 at the Wellshire Inn. There will be great food, entertainment and fellowship beginning at 7 a.m.



The cost for each member's breakfast is \$22. His wife or friend may attend at no charge as the guest of the Club. There are three breakfast choices:

**Eggs Benedict** (toasted English muffin, Canadian bacon and poached eggs topped with hollandaise sauce).

**All American** (scrambled eggs, bacon and hash brown potatoes).

**Eggs Louis** (toasted English muffin, spinach and poached eggs topped with crab meat and hollandaise sauce).

All breakfasts include a pastry basket, juice and coffee or tea. Those attending must make reservations, give breakfast choice and pay by February 11 by signing up at a Club meeting or e-mailing Tom Overton at [Tom.Overton@q.com](mailto:Tom.Overton@q.com)

### Honeymooners

The annual Second Honeymoon Week-end needs a chairman to organize this popular and fun event. It usually takes place in the summer, and is a week-end out-of-town get-away for MSOCers and their wives or significant others. **Al Gapuzan** and



**Frank Middleton** have agreed to assist the chair, so even if you've never been on a Monaco South Second Honeymoon, you can have the satisfaction which comes from planning an event that

the Club will enjoy and appreciate. Contact President **Greg Young** if you would like the opportunity to head up this event.

## District Quarterly Meeting February 8 - 10

District Governor and Monaco South member **George Buzick** reminded us to be sure to reserve February 8-10 for the Second Quarter Board Meeting and Conference. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Highlands Ranch, 1050 Plaza Drive.

**Sheryl Overton** is the Quarter Conference Chair and assures that this will be a real "Sweetheart" of a weekend. There will be some great training sessions, time to share projects and a chance to meet our Regional Vice President, **Chris Jernigan** and his wife **Marlene**.

For complete information and a reservation form, consult your Winter, 2008 copy of the *Colorado-Wyoming Optimist*, the District's newsletter. Or go to the newsletter on line at <http://www.optimistcowy.org/winter2008/winter2008index.html> . Go to page 12 for a schedule of events, and page 14 for the registration form.

## Kudos

While on the subject of the District newsletter,



**Mike Snipes**

District Governor **George Buzick** gave a pat on the back to its editor, **Mike Snipes**. Mike, who is also an active Monaco South member, does an amazing job of bringing a colorful, informative and very professional publication to our homes every quarter. He also makes

himself available as a resource for the GUMS staff, and some of his photos of the Holiday

Party appear in this issue. Thanks for all you do and do so well, Mike!

## North Region Brain Bowl Results

The North Region Optimist Brain Bowl, held January 12 at Fairview High School in Boulder, was a big success. About 130 Optimists helped keep the competition on track for the 92 competition teams (generally 5 middle school students each). Those from Monaco South were: **Don St. John, Frank Ross, Greg Young, Russ Paul, O.C. Larson, Jack Kitchell, John Greene, Tom Mauro** and **Karl Geil**.

The North Region results appear below. Help is still needed for timekeepers, scorekeepers, and runners at the Central Region Brain Bowl, coming up on February 2 at George Washington High School in Denver. Contact Karl Geil at [karl\\_geil@prodigy.net](mailto:karl_geil@prodigy.net) if wish to volunteer.

### 6th Grade

- 1st Peak to Peak 6A
- 2nd Southern Hills 6A
- 3rd Centennial 6A
- 4th East Grand 6B

### 7th Grade

- 1st Southern Hills 7B
- 2nd Platt 7A
- 3rd Boulder HomeSchool 7A
- 4th Platt 7B

### 8th Grade

- 1st Centennial 8A
- 2nd D'Evelyn 8A
- 3rd KenCaryl 8A
- 4th Southern Hills 8A

## News from the Youth

What are the youngest Optimists up to these days? Read the latest issue of *The Torch* to find out. Click on [http://www.optimist.org/Publications/Jan08\\_Torch.pdf](http://www.optimist.org/Publications/Jan08_Torch.pdf) or go to the Optimist website, look under "JOOI Clubs" and click on *The Torch*.



**Partygoers enjoy the food and fellowship.**

# Scenes From the Monaco South Holiday Party



**Becky Olson draws husband Todd's name from the jar to make him the Money Go South contestant.**

Photo by Mike Snipes



**Sandy & Frank Middleton and Pete Dimond enjoy the show.**



**Ron Carlson helps Craig Eley set up the Money Go South game show.**

Photo by Mike Snipes



**Todd Olson rips open an envelope on his way to winning \$50 in the Money Go South game. “Banker” Greg Young ponders how much to offer Todd to buy him out.**

Photo by Mike Snipes.



**Donlie Smith does amazing magic tricks with the hoops while comedian/magician Brad Montgomery watches from behind.**



**Dick Cohen astonishes Brad Montgomery.**

Photo by Mike Snipes.



**Gary Laman takes his chances as Brad Montgomery’s assistant.**



**Ed Collins looks mystified by the whole thing!**

## A Night with Benjamin Franklin and Friends

By Phil Perington

On Thursday night, January 17, at North High School a lively and spunky Dr. Benjamin Franklin (aka Chris Lowell) celebrated his 302<sup>nd</sup> birthday with a large group of assorted well wishers, students and close friends.

The evening event was a special Liberty Day fundraiser organized and managed by South Denver Optimist President **John Wren**, emceed by fellow member **David Fogel** and sponsored in part by the Optimist Clubs of South Denver and Monaco South. District Governor **George Buzick** was on hand to lead the opening ceremonies by assisting in a group recital of the Optimist Creed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance (sadly, there was no cry of "Play Ball"). Other Monaco South members in attendance included President **Greg** and **Diane Young**, **Fred** and **Karen Pasternack** (who donated \$100 to the cause), Liberty Day Executive Director **Andy McKean** and **Phil Perington**. City Auditor **Dennis Gallagher** also attended, but politely kept the orations to a reasonable minimum.

Dr. Franklin was incredibly engaging, spending the better part of the first hour giving a colorful tutorial traversing his childhood memories, business accomplishments, assorted political shenanigans, and finally, the evolution and signing of the Declaration of Independence. This led to the intriguing tale of his journey to Europe seeking aid and assistance in behalf of those "annoying" patriots and miscreants fighting for freedom and liberty in the far-away Colonies. It was Dr. Franklin's strong opinion that without the help of the French we might never had been victorious . . . isn't history great?

One extraordinary fact that Dr. Franklin shared concerned the story of his publication of *Poor Richard's Almanac* and its amazing success. Dr. Franklin pointed out that the Almanac actually outsold the Bible, but then reminded everyone in the room that it was probably because it had to be purchased every year!! What a clever man this Benjamin Franklin is.

He then shared an inspiring message of the importance to community involvement and the responsibility of every person's duty to service in behalf of their fellow man, woman and child.

Dr. Franklin's stories about his creation of the postal system and public library system were quite remarkable. Reflecting on his 81 years of life, he stated how he was continually bolstered by his belief in eternal optimism. Dr. Franklin also said he was glad to see that optimism was still alive and well.

The second half of the evening featured representatives from many of the presidential campaigns speaking in behalf of their candidates which resulted in a spirited session of Q & A. The evening then closed out with a straw poll conducted among all attendees. The results, in order of the number of votes received with the highest listed first, were:

Democrats: Obama, Clinton, Edwards, Kucinich.

Republicans: Paul, McCain, Giuliani, Thompson, Huckabee.

Dr. Franklin got some votes but had previously declared if elected he would not serve, unless it was tea. A good time was had by all.

## Holiday Party

(from page 1)

After the game, comedian/magician **Brad Montgomery** took over, calling up various partygoers to help him amaze and amuse us. Each helper was generously rewarded with a tic-tac for their efforts.

The party shut down at 9:30 p.m., as advertised, and another surprise awaited the revelers -- 3 inches of light, fluffy snow on their cars that had quietly fallen quietly during the party.

Those helping with the party were **Gary & Joyce Laman**, **Russ Paul**, **Leo Hagele**, **Sheryl & Tom Overton**, **John Young**, **Ron & Louise Carlson**, **John Moser** and **Craig & Cindy Eley**. Special thanks to these folks and to Canyon Club for once again opening its facilities to Monaco South!

## Youth Mentoring Collaborative

Do you want to really aid in the development of youth? There is no better way than signing on to be a youth mentor. The Youth Mentoring Collaborative, a coalition of 16 youth mentoring organizations, is looking for people who want to make a real difference in a youth's life.



Youth mentors must commit to mentoring at least 4 hours per month for at least one year. This involves simply sharing your life with a young person who needs a positive adult role model. Mentors don't need any special skills – mentoring is just doing everyday things like playing ball, going to the park or getting a hamburger.

So if you want to put your money (or your time) where your motto (Friend of Youth) is,

contact Cheryl Clark at 303-282-1234 ext. 305, or [cherylc@metrovolunteers.org](mailto:cherylc@metrovolunteers.org).

## Dime A Day Campaign

The OI Foundation is urging members to save a dime every day and donate it to the foundation. This may mean ordering a plain coffee instead of a whopper grande cappuccino, or taking your lunch one day a month instead of eating out.

The brochure for the program asks "How many times have you been in line at the checkout and picked up an item you didn't really need - gum, batteries, breath mints?"

Your editor doesn't know about the rest of the Club members, but he *always* needs batteries. And breath mints? Please, fellas, don't stop buying them. But one less pack of gum a day seems doable.

## Supermarket Sales

Grocery Card King **Cy Regan** reported a very nice \$1200 in sales at the meeting, meaning the Club nets \$60!

## Monaco South Calendar

- |                           |                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jan 25</b> Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Ryan Moore: <i>Trees &amp; Water Conservation</i> .                                                      |
| <b>Jan 26</b> Sat 9:00 am | Brain Bowl Reader's Training, George Washington HS, Denver.                                                                     |
| <b>Feb 1</b> Fri 7:00 am  | Meeting, Legion Hall - Doug Morton: <i>Academia and the Cost of College Textbooks</i> .                                         |
| <b>Feb 2</b> Sat 7:00 am  | Central Region Brain Bowl, George Washington HS, Denver (readers show up at 7:30 a.m., everyone else at 7 a.m.).                |
| <b>Feb 8</b> Fri 7:00 am  | Meeting, Legion Hall - Don Mares, Executive Director, Colorado Dept. of Labor and Employment: <i>Labor Trends in Colorado</i> . |
| <b>Feb 8-10</b> Fr I- Sun | Second Quarter Board Meeting & Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Highlands Ranch, 1050 Plaza Drive.                                |
| <b>Feb 15</b> Fri 7:00 am | Wives & Friends to Breakfast. <b>No meeting at Legion Hall.</b>                                                                 |
| <b>Feb 22</b> Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day.                                                                                         |
| <b>Feb 24</b> Sun 6 p.m.  | Eagle Scout Recognition Reception.                                                                                              |
| <b>Feb 29</b> Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Paul Simon: <i>You Can Do Go</i> (on demand training).                                                   |
| <b>Mar 21</b> Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Craig Eley: <i>Patrick Henry</i> .                                                                       |
| <b>Mar 28</b> Fri 7:00 am | Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day.                                                                                         |

**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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Scott Walker	303-517-1862
Bill Wells	303-757-8013
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Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Jim Brown	303-671-6309
Howard Fry	303-300-4466

**Newsletter Committee**

Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jpccinelli@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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