



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

March 6, 2009
Vol. 33, Issue 23

The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for March—Greg Young



GOOD MORNING OPTIMISTS!

Today's Greeters

Today's enthusiastic greeters were one of our newer members, **Randy Marcove** (super active member who has also recently joined the Board of Directors!), and he was partnered with **Gary Strowbridge**, Past President from 1993, and member for almost 22 years!.

Invocation and Pledge

Bill Walters, Past President from 1991, gave the invocation, urging us to *don't worry, be happy*. Bill then guided us in our pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. As a result of this prayer, the Dow went up today!

Opening Bell(s)

President Phil Perington reminded us that it is now 8:00 am in tomorrow time. Spring forward, you know? 🕒

History today was limited to three topics:

- Silly putty, invented in 1943 by James Wright, and first marketed by Peter Hodgson in 1950 as a novelty toy, originally planned to be called "nutty putty."
- 1990, the Soviets allow their citizens to own factories. Unfortunately for them and us, China beat them to it for volume of cheap stuff.

- There was a third one and maybe a fourth one but they remain lost to obscurity.

Phil welcomed back new member **Harry Fegley** from vacation.

Guests

We had numerous guests today: **David Lazaroff** brought his sister Leslie from New Jersey, and friend Jim Williams. **Bryce Slaby** brought George Kobilic, and **Karl Geil and Tom Mauro** brought Connie Ackerman. They acknowledged that Connie is the true brains and energy behind fostering the great success and growth of the Brain Bowl. As Coordinator of the Brain Bowl, Connie told us that she has seen it grown from 30 to 180 teams (**900+ Kids!**) this year! And now it will be expanded to Colorado Springs in May, with hopes for a statewide "Super Bowl" sometime in a future year. Connie presented all the MSOC'ers who participated in the Brain Bowl with THANK YOU card holders. We owe a big **Thank You** back to Karl, Tom, and Connie for a job WELL DONE on an award winning OI project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TriStar Basketball

Jack Rife sent out thanks to all who helped with the Regionals: **Bryce Slaby, Donle Smith, George Buzick, Gary Strowbridge, Gary Laman,**

Continued on page 2

DID YOU NOTICE THE DATE TODAY? WHAT MAGIC!!
3 X 1=3, 3 X 2=6, 3 X 3= 9: 3-6-09

Next Week: Friday the 13th for the second month in a row:
A Good Thing? Are you suspicious?

Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado
Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

TriStar Basketball, continued:

Russ Paul, Tom Hoch, John Green, and the members of our sister club Tamarac. If you want to participate in the District Finals, March 14th at the Pepsi Center, and attend a Nuggets game (\$40), contact **Jack Rife** as soon as possible.

Speakers Needed

If you know of speakers or want to explore a new area, call or email Paul Bernard with ideas at 720.339.8025 or pxbernard@gmail.com.

DTC Optimist Club Wine Tasting

Do not fail to sign up for the best event this month: DTC Club is hosting a **Wine Tasting** event at the Citron Bistro, on March 29th from 3-5 pm. Cost is only \$30 per guest if you buy **now** from **Karl Geil, George Buzick, or Paul Bernard**. If you wait, it will cost you \$35 at the door. Spouses and/or friends are invited. Wines of South Africa (sampled by Jack Rife on his trip?) are featured.

Get Yer Boots On

Frank Middleton announced that the Western Square Dance is coming up—yee haw! Put April 18th down as the place to be for fun and dancing...no expertise required! More to be announced later.

Colorado History Day

Karl Geil announced that the History Day series are coming up soon. If you want to participate, sign up for training on March 28th from 9-11 am. Denver History Day is on April 4th, and Colorado History Day is on May 2nd. Come to next week's meeting to get all the details and learn about this important event. Monaco South is one of four major sponsors. Learn more at: www.coloradohistoryday.org



We're Number One in Number Two!

Gary Strowbridge announced that we will once again be the clean up act for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Get your broom and shovel (provided by the club) ready for a fun day on the parade route, and be part of the clean up crew for cruddy critters.

And **Cy Regan** informs us that the crew will be well dispatched with a round of good Irish ballads on Friday next. Don't forget to wear your green, and



remember that old Irish proverb: *“Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.”*

More Fund Raisers

Two more fund raisers to tell you about: **Tom Hoch** lets us know that there will be a Benefit for the children of his son Nicholas Hoch, who recently passed away unexpectedly. It is Saturday, March 14th from 3-7 pm at the Teamsters Union Hall, 10 Lakeside Lane, in Denver. There will be a live band and prizes, so let's all turn out if we can after the St. Patrick's Day parade.

TAMARAC OPTIMIST CLUB

The ladies of **Tamarac Optimist Club** are going to have a couple of fundraisers you and your spouse might be interested in attending. They will hold a garage sale April 17th & 18th at the home of Sandy Harden located at 4060 S. Tamarac Dr. On August 6, 7, & 8th they will have **"Claire's Boutique"** at the home of **Claire Young**, 3621 So. Peach Way. Also, if you have some items you would like to donate to sell at either of these events please contact Claire (303-692-8202) the week prior to the events.

Have A Heart

Heartsaver, First Aid, CPR & AED Class

Saturday March 28th
8:30am-4pm

Augustana Lutheran Church
Be prepared to save a life

The American Heart Association course is designed to prepare people to provide CPR, first aid, or AED use in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Cost of course will be \$30 which includes the Book and certification card. Please register for the course by contacting **Joyce Thomson** at 303-757-4273 or e-mail djthomson@earthlink.net.



Shining Stars

Joe Marci and Michael Chavez are involved in the Shining Stars Foundation that helps kids with cancer do some sports, recreational and other fun programs at no cost to the kids or families.

Look into this worthwhile organization at :



CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE TO SEE IF YOU
CAN HELP OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE
LOOKING FOR JOBS

OUR SPEAKERS TODAY: JACK AND KATHY RIFE



The group is enthralled as Jack shows the many animals that they were able to observe up close and personal.

-photo by Don St. John

OUT OF AFRICA!

Rick Steves has nothing on **Jack and Kathy Rife**, who treated us to a wonderful slide show of their trip to Africa. Jack took 1500 pictures and shared about 1200 of them with us, along with a great travelogue of the trip to four camps in several different areas of Africa. As they approached each camp in a small airplane, they had to first buzz the airstrip to clear it of wildlife, and then they had to quickly land before some animal wandered back on. The most fascinating of all were the elephants, who are becoming overpopulated due to the fact that the game preserves have created water sources and other limiting measures to keep the animals from their traditional migrations. It is these long treks for water and food that in the past has caused the animals to leave the reserve and get decimated by poachers.

As you approach the elephants within a few feet, in a vehicle, they often will do a mock charge, which can be quite a scare at first. At night in the wonderful "tent" lodging that was at most camps, you can sit on the platform and observe the animals coming in to drink water at dusk. However, safari trekkers are told to not go out after dark. If one needs to then a guide will go along with an air horn to scare away the lions.

The accommodations looked superb and Jack said they didn't even see many mosquitoes! The food was mostly American style but plenty and good. A few hearty souls tried some of the local cuisine—it would be interesting to try warthog barbeque.

After doing the safari Jack and Kathy traveled to the Cape of Good Hope and along the way visited schools and orphanages. It is sad to see how many orphans there are due to the rampant AIDS epidemic.

Also, rampant is inflation. Jack showed a picture of a \$100 Billion bill. As a result, most of the people in Zimbabwe and elsewhere are anxious to get dollars, since their local currency is worthless.

Supermarket Gift Card Sales

Cy announced we sold only \$1025 today. Folks, we can do better than this!!! These cards work just like a debit card, and you get 100% of the value in groceries or gas, and the club gets 5% back from the store. What could be easier!?

Closing Bell(s)

No one won! The pot next week will be \$50. Karl won the breakfast drawing, as usual. **Jack Rife** led us in the Creed.

Monaco South Calendar

Mar 13	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Susan Gustin, <i>Colorado History Day Competition</i>
Mar 14	Sat	7:00 am	<i>St. Patrick's Day Parade - MSOC Pooper Scoopers</i>
Mar 17	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, Dist. 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Mar 18	Wed	1:15/2:00 pm	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary School - Mychael Dave
Mar 18	Wed	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood - Kale Smith
Mar 19	Thu	9:00 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary School - Phil Perington
Mar 19	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School - Nick Newey
Mar 20	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Mar 20	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School - Steve Kady
Mar 27	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker pending
Mar 28	Sat	8:30 am-4:00 pm	Heartsaver, First Aid, CPR & AED Class - Don Thomson
Mar 29	Sun	3:00-5:00 pm	Denver Tech Center Optimist Club Wine Tasting
Apr 18	Sat		Western Dance
May 1 & 2			Furry Scurry, set up on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning
June 28	Sun	All Day	MS150 Rest Stop

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

2008 - 2009 Officers

President	Phil Perington	303-832-4578
Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Rich Wagner	303-362-5328
Treasurer	Ron Gustas	303-770-9640

Board of Directors

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Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Howard Fry	303-300-4466
Les Larson	303-755-1213
O.C. Larson	303-797-7432
Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS 2009 : **MARCH:** GREG YOUNG, **APRIL:** BILL WALTERS, **MAY:** ROBERT WARDLAW, **JUNE:** RALPH PEDERSEN

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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