



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

January 16, 2009

Vol. 33, Issue 16

## The Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 Denver, Colorado

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for December—Bill Walters



### Good Morning Optimists!

"All the news that's fit to be read"

#### Today's Greeters

**Neil Atkinson** and new member, **Mychael Dave** were our greeters. Some notes on **Mychael**: He was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio where he graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelors degree then later graduated from the University of Denver with a Jurist Doctorate. Married to Donna for 11 years, they have 5 year old, Gabriel. **Mychael** was Deputy District Attorney for 8 years and now is engaged in family law with Heckenback/Ammerell, LLP. Welcome **Mychael**!

#### Guests

Lynn Jones, of Aurora, was a guest of **Bryce Slaby**. Michael Chavez was here for the second time and is all set to join this great group of Optimist. **Jack Kleinhessel**, our newest member, was here also. Jack is a retired Attorney and is a native of the great state of Kansas. Jack grew up in Wichita.

#### Announcements

**Bryce Slaby** wanted to formally thank **Joe Marci** for successfully (again) running the tree lot. Monaco South Optimist Club is able to do so much because of the work headed up by Joe. Every successful club your editor has ever visited has a good fundraiser and we not only have a great fundraiser, we have a FUN RAISER. Thanks Joe!

**Jack Rife** reminded us of the Ski-Day on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Everyone interested will be meeting at Winter Park. Jack's home in Winter Park is available for anyone interested in going up a day early and staying at Jack's place the night before. For more information, call Jack at 303-349-1280 or **Howard Fry** at 303-601-5088.

Announcements continued on next page

#### Oratorical Contest Winner

In the picture below is one of our members who won the Yucaipa Club of Optimist International Oratorical Contest for Yucaipa High and Junior High students back in 1966. Do you know who this is? Find the answer on page 3.



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 cont.

### Wives to Breakfast

**Tom Overton** told us to remember the date of Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the Friday we have our wives or significant others to breakfast. Park Hill Golf Course restaurant was picked by the club to have this event. This has always been a fun meeting so plan to signup. Tom was able to put this together for only \$24 per couple.

### Encourage Optimisms

**Andy McKean**, founder of Liberty Day, told us that our new president, Barack Obama, has on his agenda plans to promote volunteer organizations. Andy encouraged us to go on line to encourage more involvement in the Optimist organization.

More information on how we can promote Optimism can be garnered at <http://change.gov/>.

### Holiday Party

**Craig Eley** reported that the Holiday Party on January 9<sup>th</sup> was a great success with about 90 MSOCers, spouses and friends attending. The ham, turkey, and potluck offerings were enthusiastically consumed by the throng, after which we were entertained by “*The Variations*,” a 10-person singing-group. That was followed by a game of *Family Feud*, where three teams competed for prizes and bragging rights. The evening ended with door prize drawings. **Pat Sullivan** won the grand prize, a \$25 gift card from Target. **Paul Simon** “rapped” about the Holiday Party:

*Optimist partied  
And some played a game of feud  
The audience laughed  
Cheers for Craig Eley  
Although no Richard Dawson  
He sure made it fun  
Whose answers were best  
Depended on the rules  
Oh! Craig made them up*

Those with suggestions for next year's party should forward them to **Craig Eley** at [craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net). Helping Craig with the party was his wife, **Cindy**, **Bryce & Sue Slaby**, **Paul Simon**, **O.C. Larson**, **Greg & Diane Young**, **Don & Char St. John**, **Gary & Joyce Laman**, **Frank Middleton**, **Russ Paul**, **Ed Collins**, **Scott Walker**, **Jim Easton**, **John & Clair Young** and **Tom & Cheryl Overton**. Special thanks go to **Frank Ross** for the music entertainment. And special thanks go to **John Moser** for once again arranging for us to have the party at Canyon Club Condominiums Clubhouse. Also, a short meeting was held after this mornings breakfast to toss ideas around for next years party.



Holiday party  
gathers enjoy the singing sounds of *The Variations*.

Photos by Craig Eley.

### The Brain Bowl

A big Optimist event is fast approaching, The Brain Bowl. **Karl Geil** said he would be sweating until after this event is completed. Please sign up to help! First timers will be surprised how much fun you will have at this event. Kids are so smart and you will feel refreshed after you work the Brain Bowl. The Boulder Brain Bowl is happening on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at Fairview High School at 7:00 am. For questions, call **Karl** at 303-549-8710 or **Tom Mauro** at 303-929-5314.

### Supermarket Sales

**Cy Regan** reported that Supermarket sales were \$750. Down this week. He once again chastised us for being on an after holiday diet. So help him out, avoid that lean and hungry look and start buying the cards. Proceeds come back to the Club!

### Alta Vista Center Update

Monaco South Optimist Club donated money to Alta Vista Center for Autism last year. Nancy Hill from the Center came to thank us and tell us about the Center. The Alta Vista Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with autism and related disorders through empirically based interventions and state of the art individualized programs. They hope to help children reach their potential and become contributing members of their families and communities. Looks like a great program to support with our money and manpower. Learn more at [www.altavista-autism.org](http://www.altavista-autism.org).





## Speaker for Today

Our speakers today were three lady firefighters from Denver. They each told us a bit about the history of women getting into this line of work. They were wonderful. All three are in great shape, very confident and witty. When **Bryce Slaby** told them that he would prefer to have a woman (rather than a man) firefighter rescue him during a fire, Angela retorted, "That is because you would rather die in a woman's arms!"

Angela Cook is an Assistant Chief in the Denver Fire Department. She is about 135 pounds but passed the tests by carrying a heavy hose and equipment up stairs and bodies down out of burning buildings. Angela's roll model is Heather Larson, who had to sue Denver to be a firefighter and was the first woman firefighter in Denver 23 years ago. She did make a verbal note that there were no women at the MSOC meeting this morning!



Lieutenant Jackie Larson has been a firefighter for 18 years. She said the toughest part for her is staying fit. Jackie related much of the history of women firefighters. Lt. Larson also works with the Firefighter Burn Foundation in Estes Park.



Twinna Clark is a rookie. On the job less than a year, and still on probation, Twinna is a wife, mother, and firefighter. She looks like she works out all the time, like a body builder. Twinna's role model is the

first woman fire fighter, Molly Williams, an African-American-slave in 1818. There were many women fighting fires during the World Wars because many men were off fighting in those wars.



Photos by Don St. John

### Get to know your fellow Optimist: Karl Geil

Karl was born and raised in Rochester, NY area. He received his B.A. with a major in Government from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. In 1979 he moved to Denver to attend law school at DU. Once here he fell in love with both Denver and the love of his life, his wife, Lesley. Karl received his J.D. Degree from DU in 1982 and married Lesley in 1990. After working for ten years for other law firms, Karl opened his one-man law practice (Family Law) in downtown Denver, where he continues his practice. In 1996, son Jeff received a Super Citizen Award at McMeen Elementary School where **Marlin Kent** invited Karl to join Monaco South. With true Optimism, Karl served as MSOC Secretary-Treasurer in 1998-99 and 1999-2000, MSOC President in 2003, Secretary-Treasurer for Colorado-Wyoming District in 2004, and Lt. Governor in 2005 (All were distinguished). Karl currently belongs to MSOC and the Denver Tech Optimist Club. Lesley belongs to the Tamarac Optimist Club. She teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Hamilton Middle School and coordinates the Super Citizens program there. Although Karl has chaired a number of projects at MSOC, he considers his most important Optimist accomplishment has been, along with **Tom Mauro**, as rescuing the Optimist Brain Bowl from failure and turning it into one of the premier academic tournaments in the Colorado/Wyoming District for middle school students. Thanks Karl!

*From the front page: The winner of the 1966 Yucaipa, California Club of Optimist International Oratorical Contest was our own **Paul Simon**. He is the third young man from the left in the picture. He spoke on "Optimism—Youth's Greatest Asset."*

## Monaco South Calendar

Jan 20	Tue	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Jan 21	Wed	1:15/2:00 pm	Super Citizen, McMeen Elementary School - Les Larson
Jan 21	Wed	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood - Randy Marcove
Jan 22	Thu	6:30 pm	Brain Bowl Training, Overland High School
Jan 23	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Arvin K. Rao, MD - <i>South Denver Ear, Nose &amp; Throat Specialist (ENT) &amp; Allergy Clinic</i>
Jan 23	Fri	9:00 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary School - Ron Cisco
Jan 24	Sat	7:00 am	Brain Bowl, Fairview High School, Boulder, CO
Jan 30	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker TBA
Jan 30	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School - Jim Brown
Jan 31	Sat	9:00 am	Brain Bowl Training, Overland High School
Feb 6	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Jill Lysengen, <i>Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation</i>
Feb 6	Fri	10:30 am	Super Citizen, Slavens Elementary School - Joe Marci

## 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	Greg Young	2007-08

## 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

George Buzick	303-985-0655
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
Mike Snipes	303-699-9161
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Greg Young (Past Pres.)	303-759-3921

## Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	<a href="mailto:rfinkelmeier@comcast.net">rfinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jpccinelli@earthlink.net">jpccinelli@earthlink.net</a>
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## 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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