



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

December 20, 2013 – Vol. 39, Issue 12



## Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado  
Serving Youth and the Community for 36 Years

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

Editor for this Issue—Paul Stratton



### Good Morning Optimist Welcome!

**Steve Kady** and **Ron Carlson** met the crowd for our Friday morning breakfast meeting with smiles and handshakes. Everyone seemed jovial since Santa was scheduled to show and handout gifts—well some were gifts, and others sort of ?.

### Invocation & Pledge

**Bob Coulson** delivered a congeniality message as our opening invocation, followed by optimistic greetings for all!

### Announcements

**Tree Lot Update:** **Joe Marci** reported thus far over 1,000 trees have been sold, so clearly our new site has worked well as the customers have found and supported us. Tamarac Optimist Club ladies and students from the George Washington High School soccer team pitched in for several days. We need to sell the 150 to 160 trees that are left, and we will begin discounting trees on Sunday at noon (not earlier). To that Fred Pasternack was heard saying, “It’s about



*time, I can show everyone how it’s done!”* The lot is open through Monday, which will be the 25th day of sales. Next Friday December 27<sup>th</sup> will be cleanup activates after the morning breakfast meeting, so dress accordingly. Thanks to the 88 club members who have worked thus far. Our goal is 100, which would be the third year in a row to have that many members help at the lot.

**Tree Lot Annual Chili Cook-off:** The chili cook-off was held on Sunday at the tree lot. There were four entries: **Mike Chavez, Greg Young, Jon Wachter,** and **Barry Barker.** **President Jon** was declared the winner after judging by a “celebrity panel” of four. Congratulations to Jon! It was unclear if there was any prize won, other than bragging rights.

**Member Recognition:** **John Oss** recognized some long-time members and newer ones doing yeoman’s work this Christmas season at the tree lot and with other projects. He presented each with the gift of a Christmas Tree ornament. **Kent Gloor, Alan Yockey, Craig Ely, Steve Kady, Jon Wachter** were the proud recipients.

**Brent’s Place Open House:** Ed and his wife Beda, attended Brent’s Place open house last night. Brent’s Place is celebrating 25 years helping those living with cancer by providing housing and programs through partnerships in the community. Their vision is “Making a difference in the lives of children with cancer... one day at a time.”



Cont. next page

**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\*\*\*\***

## Announcements Continued

**Thank you Card:** Prez Jon passed around a colorful thank you card from the Mustangs of McMeen Elementary, thanking us for the color guard shirts the club provided. Editor: If you have not seen McMeen's "Technology Time Interactive Newsletter" it is worth a watch, go to: <http://mcmeen.dpsk12.org/> and scroll down a bit.

**Samuels Elementary Thank You:** On December 17th Samuels held their Super Citizen Program and a day later Kent Gloor received this email from the principal, Erin Trapanese.

*It was such a pleasure to see you yesterday and to be a part of the Super Citizen Assembly. It truly was the highlight of my day, and I am quite certain it was the highlight of many of our families' days as well! I feel so blessed to work in a school that has a partnership with such a wonderful and uplifting organization!*

*As I mentioned yesterday, we would like to include the optimist logo on our community partners page on our new website. If you'd like to be included, please send your logo to me and I will make sure it is displayed.*

*Thank you again for all you do, and you can count on a Christmas Tree purchase from me next year (Now that I know about your lot)!*

Warmly,  
Erin M Trapanese  
Principal

**Denver Boy Scouts Thank You:** The club also received a Happy Holiday card from the Denver Boy Scout headquarters.

**Honey For Sale:** Craig Eley reports that he still has honey from his beehives for sale to interested Club members. The profits go to educate the children of Kenombe, a village in Rwanda. The education is free, but families are responsible for books and uniforms, which many cannot afford. The local organization that accepts the donations, Solidarity, also uses the money to feed the children one meal a day. A student, Umuhiza Solange has written "I come from a poor family, oh God cares for the poor and needy. I had been unable to go to school previously, but now am studying. I get some school equipments from Solidarity and go there for some porridge and bread. Thanks a lot, you brought sunshine in my life."

The 22 bottles of honey purchased by Club members so far, has generated enough to send two Kenombe elementary students to school.

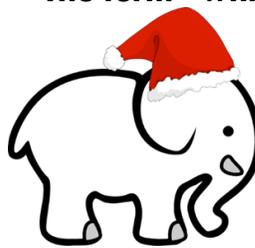
## Santa's Time

Announcements were kept to a minimum, as the American Legion stage overflowed with an abundance of gifts neatly wrapped in beautiful paper and bows (perhaps designed to mask the putrid nature of the items underneath). It's the White Elephant gift exchange!



## White Elephant Gift Exchange

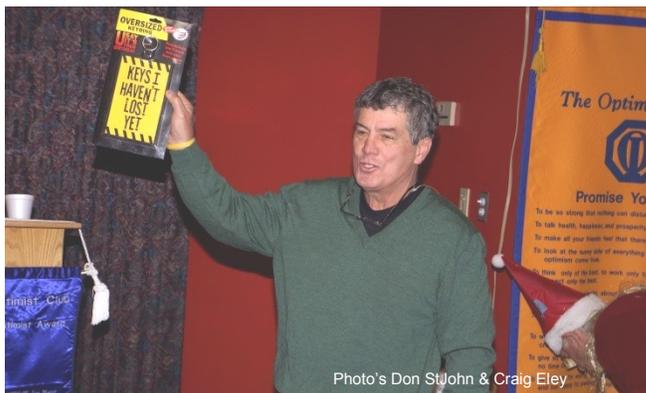
The term "white elephant" refers to an



extravagant but burdensome gift, which cannot be easily disposed of, supposedly after the King of Siam bestowed rare albino elephants upon courtiers who had displeased him, that they might be ruined by

the animals' upkeep costs.

Saint Oscar Kris Santa Claus Sorenson Nicolas Kringle presided over the festivities. Gift lowlights included: Compressor beer pump, Kahlua stuffed animals, massage therapy certificate, Kama Sutra game, bumper sticker and coffee mug featuring some coarse language, back and neck massager, radar detector, used Crocs, B.S. repellent, a purple challis, a singing and dancing Santa hat, cake decorating kit, boobie party whistle, an empty box, candy G-string, pee-pee bib, a used Army duffel bag, and many more exciting trinkets and stuff.



See more pictures in this weeks Santa's White Elephant Gift Exchange Supplement.

## Closing Bell

Although we had a drawing the winners were not recorded, since the editor needed to leave to get to his son's Christmas concert, but no one won the big pot anyway, so the pot grows to \$140 next week.



## Channel 4 Christmas Emergency Toy Drive

Steve Kady pulled together the collection of a truckload of toys to support Channel 4's toy drive to be presented to the Denver Metro Boys and Girls Clubs. "The giving began early Tuesday morning. Santa Claus (John Oss) was up before the sun and came with a truck full of toys and the folks from the Optimist Club of South Monaco. You guys saw a need, you got it together and brought a pickup truck full of toys," CBS4's Alan Gionet told an Optimist Club member. [See Channel 4 HERE.](#) Additionally see **Tom Hoch's** event video at <http://vimeo.com/album/2654384/>



Jon Wachter and Kent Gloor unload the gifts to share with Channels 4's Christmas Toy Drive for Denver Metro Boys and Girls Clubs.

Photo Allen Yockey

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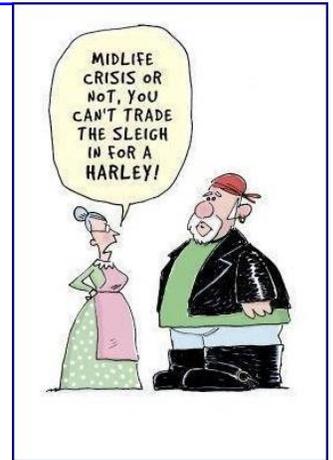
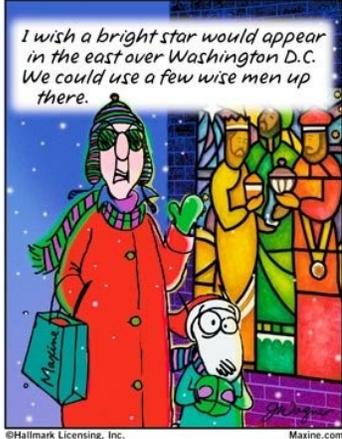
## Update on Members

Here is the latest on **Doug Morton** from his wife, Marilyn, "Doug is out of the hospital and he did not have any seizures during his stay. However, they discovered from the EEG that his brain waves are abnormally slow. The doctor said that smart people can cover up this problem for years. What they (CU Medical Center) want to do is send him to their Cognitive Center to have neuropsychology testing. Because part of his brain is working, this testing will help them to improve on the areas that are doing well. In other words the testing will find out what he is doing well and make him do it better. The appointment will probably be in two weeks. The testing is grueling and takes all day. I hope he is up to it. Needless to say, at least we are getting some answers."

According to his wife, Barb, charter member **Bill Culbertson**, is home after falling in November and spending some time in a nursing home. He is now recuperating at home and doing much better. Barb says, that Bill certainly would enjoy hearing from members. The Culbertson's can be called at 303-771-4162.

Please keep our homebound members in your thoughts and prayers during this Holiday Season.

Crabby Road 12-7-09



### Super Citizen Presenters for January

Jan 8 @ 2:30	MPB	Les Larson
Jan 22 @ 8:00	Highline	?
Jan 31 @ 9:30	Holm	?
Jan 31 @ 12:45	McMeen	Joe Marci
Jan 31 @ 3:00	Bradley	Aaron Beery

Be a Super Citizen Presenter  
See Rob Gardner, 720-263-6203  
[gardnerrb@gmail.com](mailto:gardnerrb@gmail.com)

### Weekly Greeters

12/27/13	Bryce Slaby & Dave Peck
<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	
1/3/2014	Ralph Pederson & Dave Owens
1/10/14	Allen Malask & Tom Glazier

Need Friday morning greeters,  
see O.C Larson, 303-797-7432 or  
[l Larson1942@comcast.net](mailto:l Larson1942@comcast.net)

## Monaco South Calendar

Dec 25	Wed	Merry Christmas
Dec 27	Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Jan 1	Wed	Happy New Year!
Jan 3	Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Karl Geil, Brain Bowl
Jan 7	Tue 6:30 pm	Brain Bowl Reader Training, Heritage High School, Littleton
Jan 10	Fri 7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker pending

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

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Bob Safe	1995-96
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Tom Overton	1996-97
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Cy Regan	1999-00
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Stan Cohen	2000-01
John Young	1982-83	Don St. John	2001-02
Pat Bush	1983-84	Jack Rife	2002-03
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Karl Geil	2003-04
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Greg Young	2007-08
Bob Avery	1989-90	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Walters	1991-92	Ed Collins	2010-11
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Paul Simon	2012-13
Mark Metevia	1994-95		

**2013 - 2014 Officers**

President	Jon Wachter	303-204-5645
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	John Oss	720-210-8056
Secretary	Pat Bush	720-747-5482
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

**Board of Directors**

Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
J. R. Gieck	949-636-7614
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Fred Pasternack	303-758-3754
Ralph Petersen	303-759-3384
Michael Short	970-261-6012
Scott Walker	303-803-3338
Paul Simon (Past Pres.)	303-300-9940

**Newsletter Committee**

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	<a href="mailto:rinkelmeier@comcast.net">rinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Ralph Petersen	303-759-3384	<a href="mailto:r.pedersen2658@comcast.net">r.pedersen2658@comcast.net</a>
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net">jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net</a>	John Oss	720-210-8056	<a href="mailto:john.oss4us@gmail.com">john.oss4us@gmail.com</a>
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Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	<a href="mailto:rlawardlaw@gmail.com">rlawardlaw@gmail.com</a>	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	<a href="mailto:craigceley@gmail.com">craigceley@gmail.com</a>

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Dec Paul Stratton, Feb John Oss, Mar George Buzick, Apr 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.