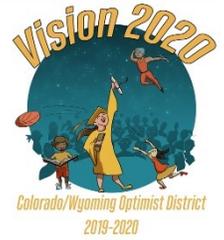




Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 13, 2019 – Vol. 44, Issue 11



Optimist Club of Monaco South



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 43 Years
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012
www.monacosouth.org



OPTIMIST
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Editor for this Issue—Robert Wardlaw

Good Morning Optimists

With snow in the mountains and a mild day in Denver we are greeted by smiling **Don Thomson** and **Mike White**.

First Bell

President **Bob Meyer** hits the bell at 7 a.m. and asks us to greet the living creatures around us and we oblige.

Invocation & Pledge

Prez Bob asks **Eldon Strong** to read the invocation and lead the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag. *“To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others, as we are about our own. Teach us to be happy in what we have and how fortunate we really are.”* Eldon then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

With the call for guests, **Bob Avery** shares that he recently had his roof redone, and **Chandler Milliken** and **Todd Zahn**, originally from North Dakota, and their crew, completed Bob's roof, so he invited them to join us. Bob also reported that the gutters has not been installed yet but that is next.

On This Date in History

Today is December 13, Friday the 13th, so on this date in 1577, five ships under the command of Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth, England, to embark on Drake's circumnavigation of the globe. The journey took almost three years.

On this date, in 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter. And in 1950, James Dean began his career with a Pepsi commercial. Then in 1957, the movie “Peyton Place” was released. And in 2003 Saddam Hussam was captured.

In 1983, the highest scoring NBA game was played, Detroit won with 186 points against Denver with 184. An NBA-record four players scored over 40 points in the game.

In 1995, Christopher Reeves is released from the Kessler Rehabilitation Center in West Orange, NJ after having his spine reattached to his brain, broken when his horse refused to jump a fence.

Birthdays on this day include Mary Todd Lincoln, 1818; Canadian artist and writer Emily Carr; baseball player Larry Doby, 1923; American actor Dick Van Dyke, 1925; **Prez Bob Meyer**, 1945; Herman Cain, 1945; Denver Bronco Gary Zimmerman, 1961; Jamie Foxx, 1967; and Taylor Swift, 1989.



Photos Noel Hasselgren

Announcements

Tree Lot Update: **Tom Kramis** says, “Thank You” for covering for him while he attended his uncle Father Joe Kramis' funeral. Last Sunday 188 trees were sold; possibly a record.

He continued with we need all hands on deck for this weekend. We should sell most of our trees by next week. To date we have sold 1,040 trees. We need 19 more members to work the lot to reach our goal of 100 members who have worked the lot. It took a total of 171 volunteer hours to fix up the Tree Lot Trailer, but what a difference it has made.



A panorama photo of the trailer renovation completed by many. Photo shows Tom Kramis at the door. Photo created by Tom.

Thanks to **Joe Marci** for bringing the food to the trailer, covering for recovering brethren **Ron Cisco**. Editor Note: *“On Friday night the generator went out. After some calls and a quick response from Tom Kramis, the generator was restarted. With diverting disaster, a successful Friday night at the lot was completed.”*

Prez Bob added, we received a generous donation from a buyer who purchased a tree with a \$1,000 check and said to keep the change.



Cesar Camarena gets a new snow coupe positioned a top the trailer.

Photo Tom Kramis

Greg Young takes the microphone and reports we have sold loads of trees to date. Some 64 members have worked thus far, we are on our way to the goal of 100 members working the lot. This weekend is going to be huge and we need all hands on deck. We need help on all shifts this weekend. So, get out there and help sell some trees.

Prez Bob added, we definitely need help all day tomorrow.

Continued 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

Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange: Craig Eley



shares that Monaco South's Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange is scheduled for the December 20th meeting. Any gift you bring can be purchased, a re-gift, or something your wife wants out of the house. A lot of the same gifts show up each year, having been cherished for an entire year by our members. Wrapping it in newspaper or anything else is fine. No gift?—Come anyway, there are always plenty of extras. This is not a good meeting to bring a guest, but be warned some gifts can be surprising. A few years ago a member brought his young daughter but reports are that she is out of therapy now and is doing fine.

Tree Lot Chili Cookoff: Michael Chavez reports that due to the stellar sales at the tree lot this year, we are moving the Chili Cookoff to Sunday, December 15th, starting at 11:30 a.m. Please bring your award winning chili by 11:30 for judging at 12 noon. Winner will get a Chili's gift card! Please let Michael Chavez know that you plan to enter.

Christmas Baskets Deliver: While Michael Chavez had the floor he said we should gather on Saturday, December 21st to deliver Christmas food baskets. Be in the American Legion parking lot at 8 a.m. much like we did last month.

Together 4 Colorado Toy Drive: Steve Kady thanks Bob Meyer, Dan Rodriguez, Tom Kramis and several others for waking up early and assisting with the Santa toy give away, held Thursday in conjunction with local TV Station. See CBS4 television report at <https://denver.cbslocal.com/together4coloradotoydrive/>. Steve said he will share another TV report once he gets it from them. However, he did catch these photos of this early morning event.



Prez Bob with Alan Gionet of CBS Denver 4 TV.



Dan Rodriguez stacking gifts



MSOC Santa, aka Tom Overton

Samuels Elementary Super Citizen: Kent Gloor thanks Dick Nickoloff and Joe Marci for standing in for him, as 31 kids were honored at Samuels Elementary last Friday for the Super Citizen assembly. The assistant principal, Ligia Gibson, was able to take part, this was her first experience with the SC program.

Brain Bowl is Coming: Karl Geil announces that the Brain Bowl is coming. And then shares that the [2020 Brain Bowl](#) is an academic contest for middle school kids. Karl reports that 135 volunteers are need to properly staff the events. If you would like to volunteer please sign up and get involved. Dates and times are included on the sheets he shared.

See the webpage at <https://www.optimistbrainbowl.org/> to determine tournament dates and Optimist and volunteer training. Reader training starts on Saturday, January 4th.

Tree Lot Pictures



Top, Nick's Evergreen makes a tree lot delivery. Below, Tom & Cesar making a tree delivery.

Photos Tom Kramis



A Bit of Humor

Golf Loving Engineers they have it down See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYUxAgR0uw>



The New Hawk Signal

Denver adding more pedestrian-specific crosswalk lights. See this **News Report from 9 News** at <https://www.9news.com/article/traffic/denver-adds-hawk-lights-to-better-protect-pedestrians/73-03d34d17-12be-4222-8776-eb202f1a3d52>

We have two in SE Denver at:

- ◆ South Quebec Street & East Amherst Avenue
- ◆ East Hampden Avenue & South Verbena Street

December Super Citizen Presenters		
Dec 17 @ 2:30	MPB	George Buzick
Dec 19 @ 5:30	Hamilton	Paul Stratton
Dec 20 @ 3:00	Bradley	Bob Avery

Continued next page

**Harriet Crittenden LaMair, Executive Director, & Michelle Freeman, Community Outreach Coordinator
High Line Canal Conservancy**

Our Speakers this morning are from the High Line Canal Conservancy. Executive Director, Harriet Crittenden LaMair, tells us the mission of this group which is to protect and conserve the High Line canal. The High Line Canal is a man-made waterway, originally completed in 1883 and used for irrigation and recreation, that serves the Denver-Aurora metropolitan area. It begins at a diversion dam on the South Platte River, some 1.8 miles above the mouth of Waterton Canyon and meanders some 71 miles.



Photos Noel Hasselgren
Harriet Crittenden LaMair



Michelle Freeman

The Conservancy's plan provided guideline to improve human health, the environmental health, and accessibility for the future. The water source for the canal will stop and the resulting water that will now be derived from storms. The canal is owned and operated by Denver Water, but the Conservancy will reclaim the historic waterway for the region and depicts a new life for this legacy greenway.

Improvements include signage that clearly identifies 71 new mile markers. Safety at street crossings is also an area that will be improved.

Tony Pickett, a Conservatory Board Member, says, "*The 71 miles of the High Line Canal urban trail surpasses the scale and impact of any similar existing or proposed initiative in the U.S. today. The High Line Canal is a unique opportunity to create a significant enduring recreation and cultural greenway legacy—celebrating the rich and diverse physical and social mosaic that we call Denver.*" The canal requires 11 governmental entities to be involved. One of the largest in the country.

Over \$30 million dollars have been invested in the improvements of the Canal so far. Many of these improvements proposed have been made and with more in the planning for the short term. The conservancy depends on the generosity of the public and private entities.

Harriet asked for a show of hands of those in attendance who have been on the canal, almost everyone raised their hand. This canal represents one of the true treasures of Denver. Venture out along the canal on a break from your day and you will discover the public at large, enjoying a tapestry of nature's sights and sounds, with breathtaking views. An opportunity to connect with the physical beauty of this city.

Michelle Freeman is Community Outreach Coordinator, and the spark the community members can reach out to. To have a sense of ownership and join in volunteering to improve the many projects to the canal. It is an ecological resource that needs to be utilized.

It is estimated that 60-80% of the water that is in the canal either leaks out or evaporates before it reaches its destination, as it was designed over 150 years ago. Over ½ million people annually use the canal. Denver Water had sold off parts of the canal in the past, it was a tough time for the waterway. The term "High Line" actually refers to the highest point of the trail that allows the canal to drop a foot for every mile the water travels, so it is a very slow moving canal.

Youth and environmental, ELK is a community program that engages youth to explore the canal and get the kids to explore the outdoors. Aurora Water Festival, and walk to connect to create canal tours, in segments. Each walk discusses the history of the canal and is a year round program. Bio Blitz and the Audubon Society, Botanic Gardens. Identified over 200 plant species and animals along the canal. Noxious weed removal which are not only bad to look at but have a negative impact on the environment, as well as people, removing over 150 pounds of noxious weeds. Most of the trash is found in the canal itself, with the trails being mostly clean and volunteer opportunities are available. All with the goal of improving the corridor and for the public to enjoy. What a great resource we have that runs right through many parts of Denver and surrounding communities.

The canal actually starts in Waterton Canyon and contains last century infrastructure to create this century green belt system. Harriet shows us how other cities (New York, Chicago, etc.) and how they have used similar areas to increase functionality and improved quality of life for its citizens. They decided to include over 5000 people in the use of how the canal has impacted our community.

Harriet and Michelle shared maps and information on supporting this major organization. Much more can be found at <https://highlinecanal.org/> There are some excellent videos that can be accessed from their webpage.

Drawing

Do we have a drawing? Yes, we do — with a \$120 in the pot this morning. The card to be found is the 4 of Clubs. As the tickets are being selected **Dick Nickoloff** is first to take a cup, **Tom Mauro**



draws a card, and **Bob Meyer** takes a cup, **Tom Glazier** takes a sure cup of cash, while **Oscar Sorenson** and **Mark Metevia** draws a card without finding the 4 of Clubs. Both **Tom Hoch** and **Frank Ross** take a cup.

President Bob calls **Jack Kleinhessel's** name from the plastic jar and he has his name tag on, but he does not find the winning card.

Pledge

We recite the pledge and go forth to spread the word of Optimism.



Weekly Greeters	
12/20/19	Tom Hoch & Eldon Strong
12/27/19	Dave Peck & Allen Malask

Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43rd Year — Chartered in 1976
See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>

Dec 17	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood Elementary
Dec 19	Thu	5:30 pm	Super Citizen, Hamilton Middle School
Dec 19	Thu	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Dec 20	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: White Elephant Gift Exchange
Dec 20	Fri	3:00 pm	Super Citizen, Bradley International School
Dec 21	Sat	8:00 am	Christmas Basket Delivery, American Legion Parking Lot
Dec 25	Wed		MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec 27	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Bob Sweeney, Stories from the Newspaper Business
Dec 31	Tue		NEW YEARS EVE
Jan 1	Wed		HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020
Jan 3	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Karl Giel. Brain Bowl



2019 - 2020 Officers

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Vice President	Steve Kady	303-931-1470
Vice President	Dan Rodriguez	303-521-5120
Secretary	Tracy Sorensen	303-886-1743
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Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Mark Smith	303-691-9766
John Stoffel	720-837-3013
Everett Gardner (Past Pres.)	949-246-0984

Past Presidents

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Stan Cohen	2000-01	Paul Simon	2012-13
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Bob Avery	1989-90	Don St. John	2001-02	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Jack Rife	2002-03	John Oss	2014-15
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Bill Walters	1991-92	Karl Geil	2003-04	Michael Chavez	2015-16
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Kent Gloor	1992-93	Bryce Slaby	2004-05	Craig Eley	2016-17
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Donlie Smith	2005-06	Jim Easton	2017-18
John Young	1982-83	Mark Metevia	1994-95	Paul Bernard	2006-07	Everett Gardner	2018-19
Pat Bush	1983-84	Bob Safe	1995-96	Greg Young	2007-08		
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Tom Overton	1996-97	Phil Perington	2008-09		
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Peter Dimond	1997-98	Ron Cisco	2009-10		
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Ralph Symalla	1998-99	Ed Collins	2010-11		
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Cy Regan	1999-00	Randy Marcove	2011-12		

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Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375
George Buzick	303-803-2268	Pat Bush	720-254-3741
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Phil Perington	303-832-4578	Greg Young	303-759-3921

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: November **Phil Perington**, December **George Buzick**, January **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.