



From the editor:

As an Optimist, it's easy to live that way year-round but the holiday season is a time to remember why we do what we do, and renew our commitment to bring out the best in children, our community and ourselves.

Bob MacFayden, OI President

Co-President's Corner - Bonnie & Claire

As we have entered 2022-2023 year, there has been a buzz in our TOC club about starting a JOI club. We are in fact starting a **Junior Optimist International Club** at Samuels Elementary with the 5th grade students and the kick off at the school starts December 9th.

So what is a JOI club?

Participation in a JOI club provides young people the opportunity to serve their communities. Students who are involved in Junior Optimist Clubs learn about and practice good citizenship, teamwork, communication, and money management. They feel good about themselves and have high self-esteem. Membership in Junior Optimist Clubs helps to develop friendships with others who share the same interests. There are opportunities for personal growth and leadership positions at Club, District, and International levels. Junior Optimist exposes Members to Optimism as a philosophy of life, provides Members with an improved sense of kindness, increased awareness for those in need, and a better sense of coping with cultural diversity.

The real purpose of Junior Optimist International Clubs is **Community Service**. Each Club is free to choose service projects, which fit the needs of the community. Some examples of projects are: environmental clean-up, Christmas caroling, peer tutoring, visiting nursing homes, helping with Special Olympics, cleaning up parks or school grounds, Toys for Tots, sponsor a book drive, and collecting food and school supplies to donate to area shelters or food banks.

Our club will support this project with the one-time charter enrollment fee of \$50 and the International dues of \$10 for each student who participates. Our members will help support this new club by attending their meetings, work with school staff and support the student projects as needed. We are excited with the prospect of seeing this new club blossom in the next months. As a result of taking on this project, Optimist International will recognize the TOC **as a Distinguished Club**. If you have questions, please contact Abigail Nicholas, chairperson, abigailnicholas@msn.com.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

With joy and optimism, Claire and Bonnie



November Programs

November 3



Jeanette Thompson

**Let's Talk -
Lively conversation
game at the tables!**

November 10



**Kaitlyn Yonke
Music Therapist
Members did active
participation!**

November 17



**Sally Reed
Development Director
Third Way Center, on slide is
founder: Hildegard
Messenbaugh, a Holocaust
survivor**



Thanks to
Marilyn Hodges
for submitting!



Karen Gutjahr	Dec 6
Sherry Pearn	Dec 8
Tricia Toney	Dec 19
Cindy Eley	Dec 21
Sheryl Overton	Dec 26

Welcome New Member! - Kim Smith

Co-pres **Claire Merrill** inducted our newest member, **Kim Smith** at the December 1 meeting. Kim was a recent speaker, and says has lived her in Denver for 28 years. She met the love of her life, Brad, 20 years ago on a blind date! Kim & Brad have been married for 18 of those years and have a 15-year-old daughter. Kim is a Midwesterner, born and raised in Ames, Iowa. She is the oldest of five siblings and very close to her two brothers and two sisters and their families. She is grateful to see her parents, Tom & Lucy (still at home in Ames!), quite often and spending time with family is a top priority.



L-R **Karen Gutjahr**, mentor, **Kim**, **Linda Williams** standing in for sponsor **Claire Young**, and co-pres **Claire Merrill**.

Kim is both an Ames Senior High Little Cyclone and an Iowa State University Cyclone having graduated with a liberal arts degree majoring in Journalism & Mass Communication. After working in radio broadcasting through college and for a short time after, Kim found her way to a “people first” career spending nearly 26 years with the transportation giant Enterprise Holdings. While she certainly never intended on spending her life “renting cars,” Kim fell in love with the very special, family-owned, automotive industry leader. Wearing many, many hats over the years, she worked her way up and was ultimately part of the senior leadership team here in Colorado before “retiring” in September 2021. Her professional experience includes both sales and operations. As Enterprise is rooted in giving back and volunteerism, Kim also led the community involvement efforts at Enterprise. That role (her favorite Enterprise hat!) made her a philanthropist, and she had the pleasure of working with many nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado, gaining experience in community engagement, fundraising, and grant writing.

Kim started working with a wonderful non-profit, **There With Care**, just over a year ago in November 2021. There With Care brings community and care to families referred by social workers who have a child facing a critical illness. Kim was first introduced to There With Care through friends over a decade ago. The organization captured her heart during her very first visit to the Boulder office. She became a passionate ambassador, sharing the There With Care mission with family, friends, and her professional network, and was able to foster a year-round engagement platform at her former company, Enterprise Holdings. She is now the **There With Care Community Engagement Director** and leads efforts to strengthen, expand and cultivate community partnerships, increase volunteer activity, and champion outreach efforts. She also serves on the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Rocky Mountain Chapter Board of Directors and has a 12-year-old niece who was born with CF.

A life-long optimist, Kim was delighted to learn about Optimists International! An opportunity to speak about There With Care at another chapter and meeting **MaryGrace Wake** led her to the Tamarac Club. She visited, spoke to our group, immediately knew, “these are my people!” and joined on the spot. Kim believes in magic and the power of positive thinking and always has on her rose-colored glasses! She is motivated by a strong mission and purpose, she’s deeply committed to people and community, and her most joyful spaces involve making a difference. **With love, light and optimism –**

Holiday Party is Loads of Fun!



Thanks again to the Friendship Committee for wonderful food. See recipe for **Mom's Cranberry Relish** from Dee on next page...



Holiday Party is Loads of Fun!



Choir Director Abigail led every table in singing different Christmas carols. We all gave it our best voices!



Dee's Cranberry Relish served at the party:

Mom's Cranberry Relish
(with my embellishments)

- 1 12 oz bag fresh cranberries
(I used 1 ½ bags)
- 1 large (equals 2 small) strawberry jello (regular, not unsweetened)
- 1 ½ - 1 ¾ cups water
- 4-5 large oranges
- 5-6 apples
(I used gala apples)
- 1 ½ - 2 cups sugar
(I used 1 ¾ cup, because of more cranberries)

Chop fruit (or use grinder) and add to jello prepared with the amount of water above...not what the box calls for. Add sugar. Refrigerate, and stir well before serving. Keeps 5-6 weeks.



Bucket Books Introduced to Rocky Mountain Prep 1st Graders!

What a great time was had by all at **Rocky Mt Prep Creekside** for our Bucket Book Project. The first graders were attentive to the message of the book and had much insight how they could fill each other's buckets. Such fun to see their enthusiasm for us being in their classrooms and excitement of having their own books. Thank You, Ladies, for volunteering your time during busy times. Carolyn Bamford



L-R: Nancy D, Lois Jean, Barb, Loretta, Diane Y, Carolyn & Joy



Busy Month for Bucket Books! Also Presented at Holly Ridge..



L-R: Marilyn M, Lisa S, Phyllis, Barb, Lois Jean, Loretta, Laura H, Karen S, Marilyn B, & Kathy S.



See you all next year with a new book for kindergartners!!

Flower Project Continues Loretta Blessinger



The TOC flower project was easy and fun with **Nancy Wright and Marilyn Bower** on 11/11 in **Claire Young's** kitchen. This is a joint effort project with TOC and Monaco South OC.

On 11/20 **Judith Barrow, Nancy Kennedy, Donna Lynch and Loretta** delivered flowers to Ave Mere nursing home 112th & Grant. There were around 100 bouquets total. 100 stems were delivered to Eastern Star Home for the resident's flower arranging class.



NEEDED: small vases, jars, cans, or other similar items for future arrangements. Please notify Loretta, and/or bring them meetings! Thank you!



Give Every Living Creature a Smile - shared by Beda Collins

- **Simple:** For most of us, the turning up of our lips really doesn't require much effort. Showing a smile to others is such an easy and uncomplicated way of acknowledging others in a warm and welcoming way.
- **Motion:** We blink unconsciously up to 19,000 times a day. Imagine the impact we could have on our own state of mind as well as others who we may greet with just a dozen or more smiles each day.
- **In:** When I see or hear the word "in," automatically my head and heart go to being, "all in." Are we "in it to win it?" When we can invite others into our positive state of mind and involve them with the simple motion of a smile, we have an opportunity to turn someone's day around.
- **Loving:** Right now the world could use a little more love wouldn't you agree? We can maybe help take the edge off for ourselves and others through some loving and genuine smiles.
- **Everyone:** May it be so. Everyone we pass, all those we have the chance to engage or interact with, let's give them a smile. Whether it is over the phone, on a virtual call, in person, walking, running, shopping, even through texts and emails, we can send everyone miles of smiles. **Zig Zigler**

Feel Good Page...



A 70 year old man asked his wife, "Do you feel sad when you see me running after young girls?"
Wife replied, "No, not at all. Even dogs chase cars they can't drive!"

IT'S A SHAME NOTHING IS BUILT IN THE USA ANY MORE. I JUST BOUGHT A TV & IT SAID "BUILT IN ANTENNA".
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THAT IS.



Last night I ordered a glass of wine with my dinner and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied do I look that young and the waiter said "No. I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen discount."

This is the editor's favorite



An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?" No reply. Moved to 10' and inquired again. No reply. 5' and not a word. A few inches behind ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey"? His wife said "For the fourth time, yes."