



From the editor:

“Optimism isn’t a belief that things will automatically get better; it’s a conviction that we can make things better.” **Melinda Gates**

**The theme for this year is
GROW YOURSELF ~ GROW OTHERS**

The theme "**Grow yourself, grow others**" emphasizes the interconnectedness of personal development and the ability to positively impact others. Here are some key insights:

- **Personal Growth:** Engaging in personal growth enables you to contribute to the growth of others, as highlighted by the Law of Contribution, which states that growing yourself allows you to grow others.
- **Purposeful Intention:** Growth should be a personal mission, driven by purposeful intention, which can benefit both you and those around you.
- **Leadership Impact:** Leaders who grow themselves often positively influence their teams, creating a ripple effect that benefits everyone involved.
- **Embracing Change:** Embracing change and learning from experiences is essential for personal and collective growth.
- By focusing on these aspects, individuals can foster a culture of growth that benefits themselves and those they influence.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

www.catchsmile.com

Submitted by the editor as a filler. Her phone malfunctioned 1 day ago and wouldn't transmit pictures.

Programs

Nov 5

Greg Mann



Viet Nam
helicopter pilot

Nov 12



Nov 19

Jessica Bachus,



Founder of Kenzi's
Causes, Holiday
Gift Project

Nov 27



Tamarac Volunteering Honored Newborns in Need

On November 11, 2025 Tamarac Optimist Club received the Group Honor for five years' service to **Newborns in Need at Denver Health Hospital**. In those five years we have packed bags of necessities for newborns, inventoried items, restocked shelves, and contributed knitted items for the babies.

We received the award at a celebration gala for donors and volunteers at the Upper Larimer Event Center. **Loretta Blessinger, Nancy Wright, Debra Fry and Linda Williams** attended the afternoon event.

Sharon Mushkin, the Program Coordinator, also announced that the Newborns in Need name

is changing to **Hello Little One**. At the end of the ceremonies, all participants were asked to put together a bag of necessities for a newborn, similar to the tasks the Tamarac ladies have done for five years.



Deb Fry
packing a
bag for a
newborn



Tamarac Brings Bucket Book to Holm ES November 12



L-R: Lesley Geil, Marilyn Bower, Barb Althouse, Loretta Blessinger, Kathy Eckhardt, Sally Evans

Goldrick ES Gets the Bucket Books November 5



Readers at Goldrick Beda Collins, Karen Somes, Bonnie West, Beth Hewett, Jeanette Thompson, Lisa Sylvest, Cindy Eley

Village East ES Receives Bucket Book November 19



Readers were Nancy Durkee, Loretta Blessinger, Kathy Sullivan, Beda Collins, Sue Morgan, Barb Althouse, Laura Hoch

November GOG (Girls On the GO) to Colorado Capitol

The Tamarac Ladies had a wonderful and informative tour of our beautiful capitol. Our guide, Janet was great. We learned about the how the building was constructed and the materials that were used.

We started on the Main floor. Hanging in the North Foyer are three flags that represent the three sister Ute Tribes. The Ute Indians are the longest continuous residents of Colorado.

On this floor you will also find the Women's Gold Tapestry. This tapestry represents many remarkable Colorado Women who made major contributions to our States History.

At the center of the Capitol is the Rotunda. Around the on the wall is a mural painted that depicts our most valuable resource water.

You will also find the portraits of 28 of our 39 Governors.

The 2nd floor has the **Old Supreme Court Chambers** that now serves as the legislative hearing room. Then it was on to the 3rd floor are the House and Senate Chambers.

It was on to the 4th floor where you start your 99 steps to the dome. Some of us only went up 30 steps to Mr. Brown Attic, which is named after Henry C. Brown who donated the land. Some our brave troops went to the top of the dome for a fabulous view of Denver.

After our tour we met at **BlueBonnet** for a late lunch.

I would like to Thank Loretta for getting me in contact with Janet.
FYI This glorious state turn 150 years old in 2026.
Be ready for a big celebration!!



L-R: Shery P, Laura H, Sheryl O, Sandy M, Loretta B,
Bonnie West, Beda C

Welcome New Members - Andi Rugg and Maggie Keck



At the regular meeting on November 20, Co-pres Beth installed 2 new members, pictured here with their sponsors.

L-R: Beth, Claire Young sponsor for Andi Rugg, Maggie Keck and her sponsor Carolyn Bamford, and Co-pres Deb Fry.

Welcome ANDI RUGG - Andi grew up in Montana, went to college, got a job and decided to reach higher. Her life took a big turn when she was accepted to the MBA program at MIT. She was introduced to her husband, **Charlton**, while still living in the east. After a few years, the couple decided that Manhattan was not their preferred place to raise two boys. So in 2015, they moved to Colorado where Charlton had gone to CU law school.

Today their boys are 12 and 14, attending middle school in Englewood. **Andi's company is called Principled, Intentional Practices.** She works primarily with non-profit organizations, executives, and board members to enhance their effectiveness.

Welcome MAGGIE KECK - Despite her last name being German or English or something like that, **Maggie Keck** is $\frac{3}{4}$ Irish, and proud of it. (Who would have guessed)? Maggie is a 4th generation Colorado native. Her great grandfather ran a bar in Larimer Square, and her grandmother was raised on a farm in what is now Broomfield.

Maggie has lived a by-the-book life – school, marriage, two kids, career, and skiing. She never managed to leave Colorado, but everyone has assured her that Colorado is the best place to be (unless you are from North Carolina), and she is taking their word for it. **She practiced law, insurance defense, for almost 40 years.** She really enjoyed the give and take of the courtroom (paperwork, not so much), and believe it or not, her favorite part was cross examination. Don't let her mild exterior fool you. She tried to retire three times, and it finally stuck in 2020. She is now figuring out what she wants to be when she grows up.

Holly Ridge Kiddos Were Treated to the Bucket Books - November 25



Readers that the editor recognizes, L-R: Nancy Durkee, Loretta Blessinger, Beth Hewlett, Patty Adams, Jeanette Thomson, Joy Criminger, Roxann Fromm, Barb Althouse, and Karen Somes

Gardening in the Dining Room!



Gardeners this month are Beth, Bonnie, Robin, and Nancy

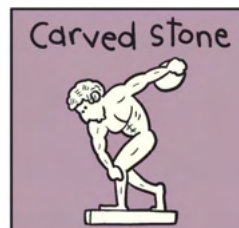
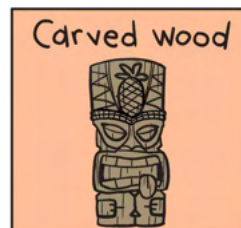
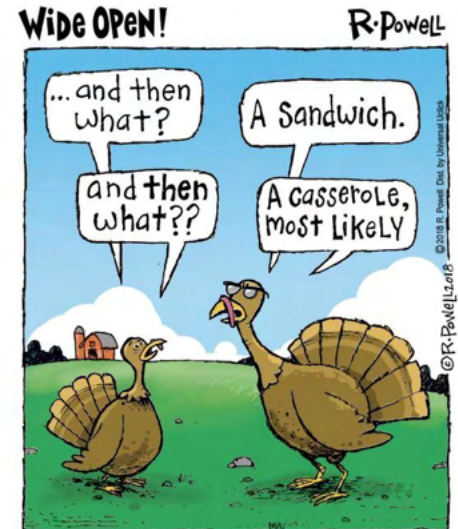
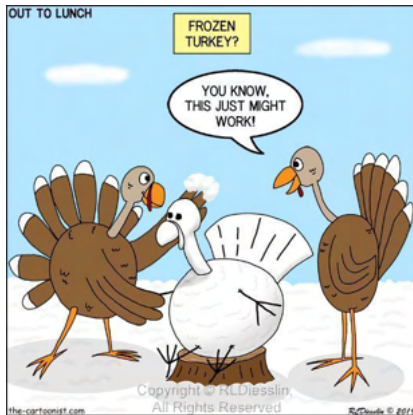


Dime-a-Day for 2025-26



It's not too early to make your contribution to support Optimist International Foundation. You will be supporting OI, your club by assisting their charitable work. Lois Jean, our Foundation Rep will take your check for **\$36.50 made out to the Foundation**, and you will be recognized with a special pin.

Feel Good Page:



This is the editor's favorite