

APRIL 2010

# BRIDGES

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF YMCA RETIREES



## Notes from the Chair

Greetings to retired YMCA friends around the world. This will be my last *Bridges* article as WFYR Chairman. After our Hong Kong meeting in July, we will be fortunate to have Jerry Prado Shaw assume the chairmanship of WFYR. Jerry served the YMCA in Bolivia, Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, and the United States. He retired from his YMCA career as the director of the YMCA of the USA's International Group. He and I have worked closely together the last few years and with his worldwide contacts, WFYR will enjoy a leadership of continuity and strength.



I want to pay special tribute to some special people who work hard and make major contributions so that WFYR can successfully build fellowship among YMCA retirees around the world. It wouldn't happen without:

Stew Brown who keeps track of all our members and maintains our mailing lists.

Len and Joyce Wilson who serve as editors to publish our great *Bridges* newsletter.

The Philadelphia YMCA and its President, John Flynn, who underwrite the production and mailing of *Bridges*.

Regional Vice Chairs, Sam Nayame, Edgar Machado, Yoshinobu Tanaka, David Davis, John Knox, Herbert Tillekerante and Jerry Prado Shaw for providing the network of connections in their regions.

Dottie Eley who maintains our financial records and handles all of our financial transactions.

AYR (Association of YMCA Retirees/USA), its past president, Bob Rule and current president Julius Jones who fund WFYR annually with generous contributions.

I report that we are still waiting for a definitive response from the World Alliance on the proposed "Global Retirement Initiative" for career professionals in developing countries. I just heard from Bart Shaha that they are working on it and we may have something to present in Hong Kong. We must continue to advocate for this issue. We must also support the Secours Speciaux Committee under the leadership of Bonnie Mairs to assist retirees in critical need.

It has been an honor and a great experience to serve as Chairman of WFYR. I thank Adrian Moody for inviting me to do so and all WFYR members for your friendship and support.

*Aloha,*  
*Don Anderson*



In three months, our historic meeting in Hong Kong will mark the first time that WFYR members will be present at the YMCA World Council meeting. We have YMCA retirees from 15 nations, including 5 from Africa, 12 from Asia, 2 from Europe, 4

from Latin America and 9 from North America. We thank Secretary General, Bart Shaha and the World Alliance for making this possible. WFYR is raising more than \$32,000 USD to provide assistance so that retirees without adequate personal resources can attend. There have been many generous supporters, but I would like to list those who are providing \$1,000 or more to the WFYR Travel Fund. They are:

- Association of YMCA Retirees/USA
- Don Anderson
- German Fellowship of YMCA Retirees/Germany
- YMCA of Metropolitan Hartford/USA
- YMCA of Honolulu, USA
- Julius Jones Robert Masuda
- YMCA of Minneapolis/USA
- Adrian Moody
- YMCA of Metropolitan Pittsburg/USA
- Jerry Prado-Shaw
- YMCA of Greater Seattle/USA
- YMCA of Metropolitan Washington D.C./USA

There are four new chairs of national YMCA retiree groups to report. They are Jack Bernhardt for Canada, Teruo Hongyo for Japan, Cornelius Olaomo for Nigeria and Julius Jones for the USA.



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2010 WFYR

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(If we missed your group or erred, please let us know.)

## Dear Friends of Bridges

To celebrate special birthdays this year, your editors fled from blizzard conditions in Philadelphia to balmy beaches in Hawaii. While we were in the islands, we enjoyed a wonderful visit with



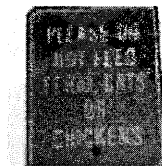
Don and Sue Anderson. We also called friends on the one day that it snowed in all the other forty nine states.

Don remains excited and optimistic about chances for WFYR to gain special considerations for Y retirement funding

around the world as a major strategy to attract and maintain qualified local leadership. He continues to seek additional conference and travel subsidy donations and as his letter indicates, support is still coming in to help.

Bridges hopes to publish a special edition of photos and reports of WFYR participation at the Hong Kong Conference this coming July.

While visiting the island of Kauai, we were taken by the large number of roosters and hens roaming everywhere. (It seems that they have no natural predators on the island). Soooo.... we



submit another strange sign sighting and continue to urge readers to send us sign photos you have come upon in your travels.



Record snowfalls, icebergs breaking up and horrific earthquakes, all remind us of our personal and organizational responsibilities to protect our fragile environment. WFYR has retirees active around the world engaged in a wide range of conservation activities. Let us know what you are doing to help mother nature.

We thank our friends from Australia for sharing tributes to some of their YMCA Heroes. We also thank Mireille Giles of Uruguay for sending details and source information on Jess T. Hopkins and his work with the YMCA in Montevideo.

Please continue to send us local and national news of WFYR activities. We always welcome letters and E-mails from individual YMCA retirees as we strive to keep Bridges viable as your Y connection. ([len.wilson@comcast.net](mailto:len.wilson@comcast.net))

*Len and Joyce Wilson*



YMCA HEROES: JESS T. HOPKINS OF URUGUAY

Bridges thanks Mireille Gilles for sharing information on an inspiring YMCA servant: Jess T. Hopkins:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for having my name on the mailing list of Bridges. I always read it with pleasure. It brings not only news about us -- retired YMCA Directors - but also challenging stories about "YMCA Heroes" like John R. Mott, Ernesto Oppliger, Joe Bednarek. Thanks again.

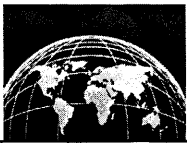
I am enclosing herewith information about Jess T. Hopkins and his contributions to the advance of physical education policies and programs in Uruguay and South America. Mr. Hopkins was a fraternal secretary who worked among us from 1912 to 1928. He came as Physical Director of the Montevideo YMCA, later being named as the Director of Physical Education for the Continental Committee of YMCAs. Mr. Hopkins introduced new standards of Physical Education and "new" games as basketball and volleyball, track events, playground systems, physical examinations, leaders corps, physical education for women, etc.

I found Jess T. Hopkins files (reports he sent to Y-USA, letters papers, etc.) tied with a rope at the old South American Federation Archives outside Montevideo. I was and still am greatly impressed by his work (by his "mission" according to his letters), by his personality and his achievements.

After reading many of Mr. Hopkins reports, letters and files, I am sure that he could not have worked the way he did without his wife's support. Ethel was young when she came to Montevideo. She had seven children, five of them born in Montevideo.

Thanks again,  
Mireille Gilles

<p>Jess Hopkins is credited with raising the level of standards and expectations for gymnasiums and physical education for the YMCA and all of Uruguay. Before the advent of the Association, Physical Departments in Latin America, gymnasiums were poorly ventilated rooms equipped with heavy weights to which only a few people went to try to develop huge muscles or learn acrobatic stunts. While the Hopkins were in the country, they helped transform the clubs and gyms into arenas for popular classes, exercise routines and YMCA drills. Hot and cold baths were introduced and became part of the YMCA facility. Mottos like "Play Fair" were introduced and hung on Association walls. Similar mottos were copied by other clubs. [Editor's note: The Y has always been imitated but never duplicated.] The work of pioneers like Jess Hopkins are a lasting contribution in YMCAs around the world..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <p>1915: "This brief report of the first year's work of the Montevideo</p>	<p>Assoc. Physical Dept. gives some idea of the amount of work waiting to be done and the fertility of the soil. The first seeds of Christian physical education have been sown and the future should show positive results for the Kingdom of God."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <p>"My time has been almost equally divided between the routine work of the Association Physical Department and the administration of the extension work. The work has had to be planned for the 65 classes per month in the Gymnasium, the 18 classes per month in the Fernandez School and the 26 per month in the Women's University.</p> <p>"My day's work begins at the office at nine o'clock and five nights a week I reach home at midnight and after. My weekly schedule has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hours language study</li> <li>12 hours playground</li> <li>4 hours Fernandez School</li> <li>6 hours Women's University</li> <li>15 hours Office Work</li> </ul>	<p>15 hours classes in Association Gymnasium</p> <p><u>15 hours</u> on street cars</p> <p>70 hours</p> <p>"I have taken 10 days vacation since June 1912"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <p>Jess Hopkins created totally new standards of Physical Education, making it a new profession. He brought new games, joy of activities, character values in physical education, physical training as part of an educational procedure, playgrounds, University Physical Education, coaching, National Committees of Physical Education, etc. International Relationships, the Technical Institute of the YMCA, public school literature, health education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <p>1919: "We have stated our purpose in a manner which not only shows the scientific basis of the Association's physical education program, but also brings out clearly and emphatically the moral and social values of modern physical education."</p>
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# BRIDGES

## YMCA HEROES: ROBERT BUELL OF CEYLON/SRI LANKA



**R. O. BUELL**

Xavier Rodriguez, a contact for events and activities in India, sends greetings to all readers of **Bridges** as well as best wishes for those representing WFYR retirees at the upcoming July conference. He sends detailed information on the work of Robert O. Buell, whom he had the privilege of working beside in Sri Lanka from 1959 - 1969. He regrets that he lost many photographs, documents and books during the ethnic violence in the 1980's. He feels that Robert Buell was the ultimate "representative of what a YMCA secretary should be."

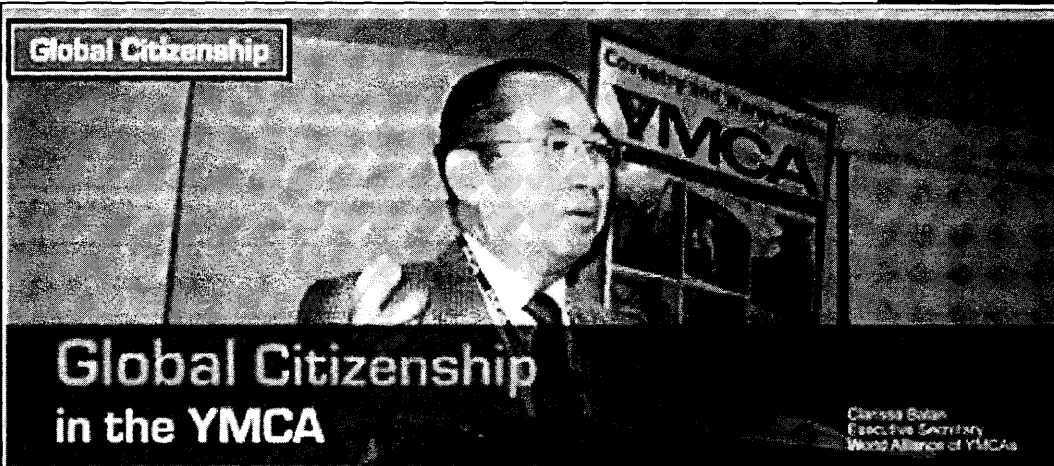
Buell served the Movement of Ceylon/Sri Lanka for nearly 46 years. He was the first national to occupy the coveted post of General Secretary of the Colombo YMCA in 1932. He became the first Regional Secretary and worked tirelessly to form the National Council of YMCAs of Ceylon which he realized in 1962. He will be remembered for his works after WWII helping to reorganize YMCAs in enemy occupied parts of Europe and especially Asia. The Government of Ceylon, in recognition of his long and distinguished services to the people of the country, bestowed the honor of M.B.E. upon him. Buell was known for his charming and disarming smile which came to be known as the "YMCA smile".

Xavier says of Buell....."he strode the YMCA scene like a colossus for a period of 46 years and while he left his footprints on the sands of time, he has also left an indelible impression on the lives of the several thousands of people, both young and old, who came in close contact with him."



## MEMBERS REGISTERED F WFYR OR THE 17TH YMCA WORLD COUNCIL IN HONG KONG

Don Anderson - USA	Susumu Iguchi - Japan	Hernan Romero - Venezuela
Jack Bernhardt -Canada	K. K. Jacob - India	Bob Rule - USA
Jayme Araujo - Brazil	Prescott Johnson - USA	Egbert Samraj - India
Francis Asiema - Kenya	Albrecht Kaul - Germany	Jerry Prado Shaw - USA
Cris Caparoso - Philippines	Alan Liu - Hong Kong	David Smith - UK
D. S. Chinnadori - India	Edgar Machado - Brazil	Harold Smith - USA
Shiu Wing Fung - Hong Kong	Bonnie Mairs - USA	Virginia Stout - USA
Jerry Glashagel - USA	Shinichi Namiki - Japan	Cornelius Taiwo - Nigeria
Mireille Gilles - Uruguay	Sam Nyame - Ghana	Yoshinobu Tanaka - Japan
James Gomez - Gambia	Johnathan Quayefio-Mexico - Ghana	Yukio Yamasaki - Japan
Teruo Hongyo - Japan	Xavier Rodriguez - India	August Yee - USA



Articles and stories from Y retirees show a willingness to understand local and global issues and a readiness to take action. WFYR supports the formation of a new generation of young YMCA leaders that promote an enhanced sense of our Christian vocation and mission.

Readers of *Bridges* can glean insights from the stories of YMCA Heroes that traveled to far places of the globe to bring the messages and services of the

The December 2009 edition of YMCA World features a insightful article by Clarissa Balan, Executive Secretary World Alliance of YMCAs. The article compares the challenges facing young people in an industrialized society when the YMCA was originally formed; to the complex issues and crises now facing humankind, and challenges the organization to rethink its imperatives in light of an emerging global citizenship. During a recent YMCA workshop on Global Citizenship in Coventry, participants helped frame a number of objectives and outcomes for the development of work on Global Citizenship among young people. WFYR and *Bridges* readers can certainly identify with the building of purposeful partnerships and mutual sharing between YMCAs on a global scale. WFYR groups around the world need to help local YMCAs understand the need for an increased awareness of belonging to one world.

YMCA to emerging communities. The local YMCA remains one of the best positioned organizations around the world. It has the right as well as the obligation to be the Global Citizen speaking and acting on behalf of the poorest and most vulnerable in its community.

WFYR representatives planning to attend the World Council of YMCAs in Hong Kong next July will certainly be engaged in lively debates and discussions of how their organization and local YMCAs can help the most vulnerable in our world obtain a measure of ecological and economic justice. *Bridges* looks forward to providing its readers with details of issues and decisions reached at the World Council.

Thanks again to Clarissa Balan for her background information on YMCA Global Citizenship.

## IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD JENNER

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Harold Jenner. He was an outstanding YMCA professional, with a deep commitment to the YMCA Mission and a very kind heart.

Harold began employment with the Brisbane YMCA in 1940 as Boys' Work Secretary, and retired in 1988 after eight years as an Executive Secretary with the World alliance of YMCAs.

His Australian YMCA career included two years with the YMCA of Sydney, two years as General Secretary

of the Canberra YMCA and seventeen years with the National Council. Harold was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1982 for his services to the YMCA and the community. His commitment to YMCA work continued even after his retirement as he had also raised funds for YMCA Retirees.

His passing away is a great loss to the YMCA movement. On behalf of the World Alliance of YMCAs, we wish to express our deep condolences to his wife, Irene, and to his children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

We pray that he may find eternal rest in the Peace of Christ.







## AUSTRALIA: DAVID DAVIS, CHAIR

David Davis says of his friend and colleague: "the Frank Vig that I remember very vividly was a strong man - physically, mentally and spiritually. These characteristics happen to epitomize the three sides of the YMCA Triangle: Body, Mind and Spirit. But that's how Frank Vig was."

The YMCA of South Australia will host an extensive collection of pictorial materials stretching over many years of YMCA history. Members were urged to contact Norm Reynolds if they felt they had materials to be added to the collection as part of YMCA History Week in May.

It appears that no Australian Y retirees will be able to attend the WFYR gathering at the World Council Conference in Hong Kong, but enthusiasm is mounting for the YMCA National Convention in Bundaberg from November 26 to 28th.

The *Australian Bridges* closes its recent edition with a tribute to all grandmas and grandpas who have been fearless and learned to use the computer. "We do not stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

"*The computer swallowed grandpa.* Yes, honestly it's true. He pressed control and enter and disappeared from view. It devoured him completely. The thought just makes me squirm. He must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm. I've searched through the re-cycle bin and files of every kind; I've even used the internet. But nothing did I find. In desperation I asked Jeeves my researches to refine. The reply I got was negative. Not a thing was found on line. So if inside your inbox, my grandpa you should see, please copy, scan and paste him. And send him back to me.

## LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN: EDGAR MACHADO, VICE CHAIR



A great deal of interaction took place in the last few months among the different national chapters in the area, especially in issues related to the upcoming gathering in Hong Kong in conjunction with the World Council meeting next July, 2010.

Several members across the sub-regions expressed their interest in participating. However, recent increases in the cost of air transportation, and the existing world financial crisis, forced most of our constituency to decline.

Intensive efforts were made to promote the WFYR gathering in Hong Kong. Preparation is underway in recognition of the magnitude of this event, a first of its kind, to foster the continuation and enhancement of the vital services provided to our less fortunate colleagues around the world.

The current delegation to the meeting in Hong Kong will

be comprised of Mireille Gilles (Uruguay), Jaime Araujo (Brazil) Hernan Romero (Venezuela) and current Vice-Chair Edgar Machado (Brazil).

Other important activities include the special fellowship gathering of the Uruguayan retirees, as well as widows and select friends, in Montevideo, Uruguay, to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Vice Chair Edgar Machado attended to offer greetings from WFYR.

Due to special circumstances, the Board of Directors of the YMCA in Peru has requested that retiree Edgardo Croveto assume temporary responsibility as CEO of the National Movement. Edgardo had graciously agreed basis until the situation stabilizes. We congratulate Edgardo for this distinguished undertaking.

We thank God for our many blessings and pray for our fellow Chileans and Haitians who were affected by the recent earthquakes. To the best of our knowledge there are no fatalities among YMCA co-workers or retirees.

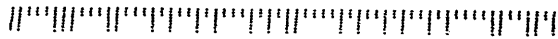
## UNITED KINGDOM: REG WAKE, CHAIR

Retirees in the UK are looking forward to their 2010 Reunion next September in Birmingham. Their newsletter is full of interesting articles and historical accounts. A fine tribute was given to Mrs. Mary Thompson, who served along side her husband of 66 years Jim during his entire career. "A quietly resourceful person with wide ranging interests and a mischievous sense of humor coupled with Scottish forthrightness, endearing her to all who met her."

The Queen honored ex-YMCA Norfolk chief John Drake. The MBE award is given to individuals for achievement or service in and to the community of a responsible kind which is outstanding in its field, or for very local hands-on service which stands out as an example to others. Recipient John Drake states, "One of the satisfactions is that not only has the work of the YMCA been recognized but it also shows that Christian service is still valued by government."

Retirees in the UK are able to view their archives on a designated website in collaboration with YMCA England and Special Collections, University of Birmingham. YMCA involvement in WWI is expressed in the following quote from *The Back Parts of War - The YMCA Memoirs and Letters of Barclay Baron 1915 - 1919*.

"The significance of the work of the YMCA during the First World War has been overlooked. Yet, largely owing to the YMCA, the British Army was in better shape than the armies of other nations. It conveyed to all the care of the nation, and, for some, the care of Christ. Soldiers thought YMCA stood for "You Make Christianity Attractive." At one time, the YMCA had 1750 workers in France alone. Some centers were so close to the line that a German advance would capture them."



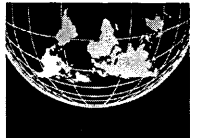
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# BRIDGES

APRIL 2010



Printing and distribution for BRIDGES is provided by the YMCA of Philadelphia,  
sending a message of "Brotherly Love" to YMCA retirees around the world.



## BRIDGES IS FOR ALL WHO WISH TO RECEIVE IT

Funds have been donated so that all who would like to receive BRIDGES will be able to, without a "subscription" fee. However many retirees from countries all around the world have sent a US remittance to share in the cost of publishing BRIDGES. This annual fee is voluntary, of course (if you are a subscriber, your date of expiration is shown on the mailing label for BRIDGES). Any who wish to make such a contribution may use this remittance form. Check should be made payable to WFYR.

TO: WFYR Communications Chair: Stew Brown, 14080 CR-261-H, Nathrop, CO 81236 USA: I want to share in the cost of publishing/distributing the WFYR newsletter at US \$7 per year, or \$18 per three years.

BRIDGES subscription \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Extra contribution to WFYR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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