



McBurney Morse Messenger

Association of YMCA Retirees, Inc.

Fall 2011

Affiliate of the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees

CHRISTMAS GALA

DEC 1 @ 11 AM
HOSTED BY YMCA of
Greater New York
WESTSIDE YMCA
5 W 63RD ST, NYC
Near Columbus Circle
Send your registration by Nov 18



It's Christmas time in the City. Come and join your YMCA friends for a wonderful party on Thursday, December 1, from 11 until 2 at the Westside YMCA. We are expecting a number of new retirees and hope that you will be here to greet them. The new President of AYR, Len Wilson, plans to be with us. He will provide us with some excellent food for thought, I'm sure.

We want to thank Jack Lund, President of the YMCA of Greater New York for providing this great luncheon and get together of retirees from throughout the Metropolitan area. We look forward to renewing friendships, wonderful music, and good fellowship.

The Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center will be lighted on November 30. So following our party, you might want to stroll across Central Park South and down The Avenue of the Americas to see the Tree, and then along a bit of Fifth Avenue to see the decorations.

Send in your registration found on the last page of this Messenger.



President's Message

In early September Eleanor and I traveled to San Diego, CA to attend the National Reunion of the Association of YMCA Retirees (AYR). The Theme this year was "Renewing the Spirit." Spirits were very high as the Reunion committee led by Pat Ritter, worked diligently to keep the attendees inspired, busy, informed and well fed. The program offered entertainment, personal growth workshops, service recognition, organizational resources and fellowship.

Presentations were by Retirement Fund CEO John Preis who said the "days of additional dividend checks" to retirees are over for the foreseeable future, but the fund is healthy and regular checks are safe. National YMCA Executive Neil Nicloll urged AYR to expand chapter growth by becoming more relevant to the needs and concerns of new retirees.

During an inspirational recognition ceremony our own Bonnie Mairs received the Thomas V. Sullivan Award for International Service. Bonnie was surprised and overwhelmed. The reunion was attended by over 300 participants who were treated to a boat ride around San Diego, wine and cheese receptions, take home gifts and many opportunities to fellowship with old friends. A wonderful time was had by all. Near the end of the Reunion, outgoing AYR President Julius Jones passed the gavel on to incoming President Len Wilson.

Finally, a very special congratulations goes out to Tatsuo and Emiko Honma for their induction into the Frost Valley YMCA Hall of Fame. This is a well deserved recognition for their years of dedicated service to building international understanding among all peoples.

In closing I want to say that your membership in McBurney Morse is greatly appreciated. Your contributions to the charities we support strengthen their ability to provide vital programs. Your personal time, wisdom, leadership and energy is welcomed and needed now more than ever before. Thank you for supporting YMCA World Service, the Japan Relief Effort, the Sioux Indian YMCA, Secours Speciaux, and the Emergency Assistance Fund for Retirees.

Ralph Christian

~ ABOUT US ~

JOHN JORGENSEN - Two things this year to be most thankful for 1. I had my right knee replaced on August 2, and am getting around really well with no pain! 2. Our son Christopher (who was born while I was working at the Y in NY) and his wife Amanda gave us the miracle of a new life in a grandson, John Nolan Jorgensen born on September 23, 2011. Our best wishes to all for a joyful and Blessed Holiday and New Year.

BOB WILSON - Jo's collection of poetry has just been published. The title is Just For The Occasion. Cost \$18.00. It can be ordered by E-MAIL Robert6967@aol.com or call 973-926-3825

DICK BATCHELDER - The good news here is that my wife, Marilyn, had a cochlear implant this summer and although there is still work to be done, her hearing is MUCH improved. Hearing has now been restored to one side of her head that has been silent for over 20 years!

BARBARA PARKER – Thank you for the invitation to the Christmas party. I'm sorry, I'll be away.

LOUIS VALENTI – We just can't keep away from the Broadway YMCA Center on Staten Island. My wife works out two times a week, and me, I keep in close contact with the staff.

RAY DAY – I have been traveling a lot most recently to Croatia and plan to visit South America early next year. I am involved in the Y's new CEO coaching project, helping new executives who have no previous experience with the Y.

BONNIE MAIRS - I am thankful for friends. One is Ralph Christian. He nominated me for a "Passion" award which I received at the recent AYR conference in San Diego. I think he did it because he knows that I am passionate about Secours Speciaux, the international emergency fund that helps Y staff and retirees around the world who face crises in their lives. It is an honor to serve on that committee. I keep thinking how lucky we in the USA are to have our Y retirement pensions. We live in comfort and security; many of our overseas colleagues do not. Thank you. Ralph, for nominating me, and thanks to all who have supported Secours Speciaux this year.

ELLIE COLLIER - Oct. 1st, seeing the Spirit of Love at the altar of my DAUGHTER LORIE & my new Son in Law R. Dino Davis take their Wedding vows. The rain stopped & the sun came out. Happiness filled the Chapel.

RALPH & RONNIE CHRISTIAN – The Christians spent most of the summer with friends out in Sag Harbor, NY. We also visited Silver Bay YMCA on Lake George and Frost Valley YMCA with the Honma Family and Friends as Tatsuo and Emiko received the Frost Valley Hall of Fame award. Mid September was spent in San Diego, CA at the AYR national reunion.

RON SARGENT - My spirits story is that I just returned from a trip to Houston TX to visit my mother and celebrate her 95th birthday. She lives with my younger sister. My mother moves a little slower, but her mind is as sharp as ever. I told her that you know that you have had a long and enjoyable life when you and your kids are all eligible for Social Security.

GRIFFAS– BARBARA: Starts her fifth year of tutoring in one of our schools, Chr. of our Church School Board and a member of the Lutheran Church Synod Candidacy, which interviews candidates for the seminary. ARTHUR; Beginning my fifth term on the Orange School Board, President of the County School Board plus two State School Committees which includes High School Athletic Executive Committee. I also was honored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority with an Education Achievement Award for volunteers.

PAUL SHARAR – Celebrated a most happy 80th birthday with family at a great restaurant on the Hudson River and several Broadway shows. Arranged for a 37 megawatt solar array for our church that will be operational before the end of the year. Enjoyed time with grandkids over the summer.

Congratulations: Tatsuo and Emiko Honma



Tatsuo and Emiko Honma

Tatsu and Emiko were given a high honor by the Frost Valley YMCA when they were recently inducted into the Frost Valley YMCA Hall of Fame. The high honor acknowledged the Honma's vision and leadership in the creation of the Tokyo-Frost Valley Partnership. The partnership has enabled hundreds of young children to retain their Japanese culture and language while they are temporarily residing in the U.S.A. The benefits

to American staff and campers were equally profound and beneficial.

Three AYR chapters from New England, New York and Central Atlantic regions met at Silver Bay in May. Among the programs was a detailed account of Tatsuo and Emiko Honma's account of their stay in Japan during and after the storms and subsequent nuclear reactor failures. They illustrated the locations of various YMCAs that were damaged but still managed to be active partners in the cleanup and recovery efforts. They noted that many of their friends and loved ones would always bear the memories of suffering and anguish that they witnessed after the storms, but they were optimistic that their nation would overcome the devastation with time and dedication. They sent their personal thanks to YMCA friends and colleagues that mounted special fundraising efforts to provide a small level of support for their Japanese counterparts and communities.



SPRING FLING AT ELLIE COLLIER'S HOME

We had a delightful spring party at the home of Ellie Collier in Lakewood in June. Ellie and friends were the most gracious of hosts, welcoming us with open arms. The weather was splendid and the food was scrumptious. Everyone brought his or her favorite summer treat prepared to perfection.

Everyone had a chance to tell about his or her most enjoyable activities and family events. (See ~About Us~). At the very short business meeting the Chapter voted to donate \$300.00 each to YMCA World Service, the Emergency Assistance Fund, Secours Speciaux, and the Sioux Indian YMCA. We also confirmed the special gift to the YMCAs of Japan of \$600 to help with the tsunami and earthquake disaster. All of us had a wonderful time. THANK YOU ELLIE!



Front Row: Ellie Collier, Josephine Wilson, Shirley Case, Barbara Griffa, Eleanor Christian, Friend, Ralph Christian Back Row: Janet Soong, Dick Batchelder, Meg Peterson, Paul Sharar, bonnie Mairs, Bob Wilson, Art Griffa, Ron Sargent, Bob Soong

TREASURER'S REPORT

**~Our New Fiscal Year has begun~
~2011-2012 McBurney Dues Now Payable~**

Our Treasurer, Dick Batchelder reminds us that our new fiscal year began on October 1, and that our annual dues for the coming year are now payable.

Annual dues for McBurney Morse members are \$15 per person and allow the Chapter to pay for its modest expenses and make added contributions to our YMCA charities. You can see our financial report below.

Contributions to our Chapter of AYR are tax deductible as We are a 501©(3) organization. Your cancelled check is your receipt. We are blessed that the Ridgewood, NJ YMCA donates the preparation and mailing of our Messenger and that our officers donate their travel and other expenses to keep our costs low and our philanthropic percentage high. Thank you all.

~Are Your McBurney Dues Paid Up?~

Dick reports that as of October 1, only one member has paid in advance for the new year and she knows who she is. The rest of us need to fill out the back page of this Messenger and send it in with our checks as soon as we can.

Remember that National AYR Dues are separate from Chapter Dues. We hope you will support both organizations.

REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9/30/2011

By Dick Batchelder

**MCBURNEY MORSE CHAPTER AYR
BANK BALANCE: 10/1/2010 \$718.06**

RECEIPTS:

CHAPTER	
Membership dues	655.00
Chapter Charities	435.00
	740.00

EVENTS

Christmas Party	165.00
	165.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE \$1973.06

EXPENDITURES

Chapter Expenses	
Bank charges	2.00
	2.00

Chapter Charitable Gifts 2010

World Service	300.00
Secours Speciaux	300.00
EAF	300.00
Sioux Indian YMCA	300.00
Japan YMCA Disaster	600.00
	1800.00

TOTAL EXPENDED 1802.00

BALANCE ON HAND 9/30/2011 \$ 171.06

MCBURNEY MORSE CHAPTER OFFICERS & CABINET

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Alice "Bonnie" Mairs Receives AYR Sullivan Award

THOMAS V. SULLIVAN AWARD

Thomas Sullivan, a sea Captain and founder of the first YMCA in America (Boston) was inspired by the Y movement in England and brought this vision to America in 1855. His leadership and quest to impact community life and build the foundation of personal growth changed the face of non-profit organizations around the world. In his footsteps over the next century and a half, many YMCA men and women across America followed Captain Sullivan's lead and ventured out into the world to share the YMCA Mission and Purpose to assist the development of community, youth and family YMCA programs.

Today, the Sullivan Award will recognize a retired YMCA Director for her contributions and efforts in sharing the YMCA Community Development concept throughout the world. With the likeness of Captain Sullivan, she is a person of courage and vision to "Stay the Course" and to plant the seeds of YMCA discovery and growth. We wish to recognize this INTREPID hero from our YMCA family who has not only excelled in her career but also in her retirement and has made significant accomplishments in developing, supporting and communicating her passion for others.



INTRODUCTION OF ALICE "BONNIE" MAIRS:

Ralph Christian, in his nomination said, "I consider it a great pleasure and responsibility to recommend to you Ms. Alice "Bonnie" Mairs as a worthy candidate to receive the Thomas V. Sullivan Award for International Service. As president of the McBurney/Morse Chapter of AYR and as a professional colleague of Ms. Mairs for over 30 years I have known her to be a conscientious and hardworking advocate for a strong YMCA presence with respect to the International Community and World Service.

Bonnie's early contact with the YMCA began as a 7 or 8 year old Y camper in St. Paul, Min. This set the mold for a lifelong commitment to the Y. Much later she joined the National YMCA Staff in New York (291) and was in charge of International Student Exchange Work and the International Camp Counselor Program. With these exciting programs Bonnie exposed local YMCAs and YMCA families to a wonderful world of cultural enrichment, global awareness and international exchange. She recruited students worldwide and offered them work assignments in Y camps and living experiences in Y family homes. These young people often enhanced our values as they helped to foster a broader understanding and appreciation of other cultures and lifestyles. Many of these students became lifelong friends.

In her capacity as the Executive Director of the International Branch of the YMCA of Greater New York Bonnie continued to be an extremely effective liaison between the YMCA and the International Community. This was evident as she: maintained a relationship with the United Nations and its recognition of the YMCA as one of its original NGO's; expanded the scope of her participation with the World Council of YMCA's; and continued her professional and personal efforts in support of small struggling YMCA's in depressed and/or developing countries. When a YMCA is under the threat of closure, or a third world YMCA Executive has no pension, or a camp needs to rebuild; they all have had a friend in Bonnie Mairs. She is one who will fight for their cause and will articulate their plight in a warm but compelling manner.

In retirement Bonnie remains a strong supporter of YMCA World Service, EAR, Secours Specieux, the Sioux YMCA, and the Japan relief efforts. She is also a very active member of the McBurney/Morse Chapter of AYR and is involved in the World Council of YMCA's and the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees. In addition Bonnie continues to lead annual study tours to Jerusalem visiting the holy sites of the three major religions.

Bonnie's life in the YMCA has been about the people she has met and the friends she has nurtured as a Y ambassador. Those friends can be found all over the world. Alice(Bonnie) Mairs has STAYED THE COURSE and has followed the vision of Captain Thomas V. Sullivan; " To venture out into the world to share the YMCA mission and purpose and to assist in the development of community, youth and family programs" and to help make life better.

NOTES AND QUOTES

IT'S TIME TO RENEW OUR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2011

Our Treasurer, Dick Batchelder, requests that you send your 2011 dues of \$15 per person as soon as you can. As you can see from his report here, the Chapter donates the vast majority of its income to chapter charities. If you can make a modest donation to the chapter in addition to your dues, it would enable us to do more. Please sign up and send in your contributions using the back page. Thank you!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND NEEDS HELP!!

Dale Ventres, our national chair for the Emergency Assistance Fund, reports that nationally AYR members have contributed 491 gifts totaling \$50,424. This is substantially LESS THAN last year at the same time.

Have you considered a gift to the Emergency Assistance Fund this year? Three major grants to help Y retirees have been made and you can read the stories at the AYR web site: www.yretiree.org.

Nation wide AYR registers 491 gifts at \$50,424 while McBurney Morse Chapter has 14 gifts for \$1,955 to date. **Here are the contributors from our McBurney-Morse Chapter so far:**

Richard & Marilyn Batchelder, Brigitte Cappelli, Ralph and Eleanor Christian, Eleanor Collier, Ray E. Day, Arthur J. & Barbara H. Griffa*, Tatsuo & Emiko Honma, McBurney Chapter gift *Mary M. Middleton, Stephen Oswald*, Paul Sharar*, Harold C. Smith*, Robert & Janet Soong, Robert A. Taylor, George Titzwill*, David R. Wilson, Robert Wilson,

* = Honor Roll of Century Club level of gift and above.

Clip/mail: Richard Batchelder, Treas., 425 East Lake Shore Dr., Highland Lakes, NJ 07422, by November 18.
(Please Make checks payable to McBurney Morse AYR)

I/we will be at the Christmas Gala (suggested donation \$ 10 per person) Enclosed \$ _____

I/we enclose our 2012 dues (suggested \$15 per person) Enclosed \$ _____

I/we wish to contribute to Chapter charitable work Enclosed \$ _____

Distribution:	WS \$ _____	EAF \$ _____	Secours Spec \$ _____
	Sioux Indian Y\$ _____	Remembrance Fund \$ _____	

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Tel _____

TELL US ABOUT YOU, OR ASK US A QUESTION (Dick Batchelder will send this note on to the Editor)

FROM: _____ **PHONE:** _____