

AYREPORTS SPECIAL:

Report From Hawaii Colleagues On Japanese Tsunami

By Don Anderson

Every one of us found it hard to believe what we were seeing on television March 10, as a giant wave of black water, buildings, trees, vehicles, and other debris swept across the landscape of northern Japan's coastal area. The magnitude of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear tragedy continues to unfold. More than 11,000 bodies have been recovered, nearly 19,000 remain missing, and hundreds of thousands have been displaced as of *AYReports* deadline in April.

For retired Hawaii YMCA colleague, Bob Masuda, and me, there was an immediate and personal concern. My son has been working for the Hiroshima YMCA in Japan for the past 17 years. Bob's daughter and her family (Navy Chief husband, toddler daughter, and infant son) transferred back to Japan from Norfolk in January.



Bob and his wife, Jane Sherwood, had tickets to fly to Japan that week for a visit. They reversed plans and brought their daughter and grandchildren home to Hawaii with concerns over radiation levels. My wife, Susan, and I couldn't get any information of consequences that might have reached Hiroshima.

We reached our son by phone after several days and learned

there had been no effects in his region. We actually had more effects in Hawaii. Bob's son-in-law has been at sea off northern Japan, part of the U.S. Navy's assistance efforts.

Historically, there have been strong ties between YMCAs in Hawaii and Japan.

TSUNAMI

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Staying Informed And Involved

By Julius Jones

Many AYR members have been working on the very important issue of molding 20 chapters and the National Board into one



Julius

organization for the past 18 months. We have moved a long way in that direction, as verbally affirmed by board members and chapter presidents at a meeting in

Orlando, Fla., in January.

We have agreed that AYR, since its inception, has been about one important thing: keeping each other informed, and involved.

One of the best ways to make this happen is through attendance and participation at chapter meetings. Some chapters have broken into clusters that meet throughout the chapter's geographical area to make attendance at meetings easier. Others hold small group meeting opportunities throughout the year at various places in their regions. The thirst for current information about the Y and its national and local

PRESIDENT

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Tsunami

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Bob and I both emailed our Japanese friends to confirm they were all safe and to express our solidarity at a very tragic time. We both met with Honolulu YMCA President/CEO Michael Broderick and his staff to talk about a response. For now, \$10,000 is being sent to the Japan National Council and, later, the possibility of sending some young adults on a service project will be explored.

I called Japan's National General Secretary, Shigeru Shimada, and some local YMCA leaders at *AYReports* Editor Craig Altschul's request to get an update for you.

The big picture is that the staff and buildings of the two YMCAs in the affected areas all survived, with minor damage to the buildings. Those YMCAs are in Sendai and Morioka.

National General Secretary Shimada told me he is meeting with a council of other NGOs to coordinate the non-governmental response. The YMCA will be asked to assist in services to youth, elderly, disabled, and foreigners because of our expertise. Executives of all Japanese YMCAs met in mid-April to develop a comprehensive YMCA strategy.

Initially, the National Council and local YMCAs have sent staff, Y's Men, and other volunteers to the affected areas. They have brought relief supplies and sent volunteers to houses of the elderly to care for their needs. They also are doing an assessment for longer-term services.

The Sendai YMCA is using its lower levels to service and shelter survivors. Its third and fourth floors have to wait for inspections for

structural damage prior to being allowed to use them. The Sendai YMCA Volunteer Center was established March 22 and is supporting the damaged coastal towns.

The Morioka YMCA has sent staff to Miyako city where 1,500 people are still missing. They are working closely with local churches in the area where the tsunami reached its greatest height. Staff from the Yokohama, Kobe, and Kyoto YMCAs have joined National Council volunteers in this area.

The Ibaraki YMCA and the Tozanso YMCA International Youth Center are providing child care, recreation, and housing for refugees from the Fukushima nuclear reactors.



General Secretary of the Hiroshima YMCA, Shoji Kamikubo, said they were able to send medical staff in cooperation with another NGO. They also have had a major response to a call for volunteers to serve in an "on the street" contribution campaign. A similar campaign in Kobe received contributions from more than 2,000 people.

The YMCA's main work lies ahead to be sure. The Y will have a huge role in providing programs for children while the adults try to put their family's lives back together. These are people who have lost their home, their livelihood, community, friends, and family members.

Japanese culture requires connection to community, social order, continuity with history and ancestors. This will make moving beyond this tragedy no simple matter. Our friends in Japan will need and will appreciate our expressions of sympathy, solidarity, and support. ◆

Don Anderson lives in Honolulu and is retired as the Honolulu YMCA CEO and immediate past chairman of the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees. Email: ymcadon@mac.com

You Can Help

Contributions to the YMCA of the USA World Service response to the Japanese tragedy may be made online at the YMCA of the USA's secure World Service website at <https://donate.ymca.net/world-service-donation.aspx> (Please note: When donating online, it is important to specify "Japan YMCA Relief Fund" in the "Comments/special instructions" box at the bottom of the online donation page to ensure immediate designation of your contribution.)

You also may contribute by calling the YMCA of the USA International Group at 800-872-9622, or by mailing a check (payable to YMCA World Service, "Japan YMCA Relief Fund" noted in the memo line) to YMCA of the USA, attention YMCA World Service, 101 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.

EAF: ON MY MIND

By Dale Ventres

By now all Y retirees have received their 2011 EAF campaign materials and, hopefully, all of you have mailed your pledge back to AYP. I received a detailed message from AYP, in which they explained and apologized for the mailing delay. I was able to personally relate to one of the snags, as most YMCAs faced the same set of circumstances. Be



Dale

grateful you are retired.

It is amazing to me how our AYP staff of three people are undertaking more tasks this year. We need to remember EAF is just one facet of their responsibilities, and so is the record keeping of our AYR membership. Their professional services to active AYP members add up to more than we realize. As demanding as I am, I believe AYP is administrating fine results with our Emergency Assistance Fund. I've been their most severe critic and supporter.

CEO Donna Dunn informed me the AYP has been studying a new structural plan that would allow EAF to have its own board of directors. EAF has been a committee of AYP. We already have our own 501(c)3 tax ID number. This is exciting to me, as it will elevate EAF into a position where specialized committees will be formed and we can involve more leadership in our ranks. I hope this will be adopted by their membership.

Both AYP (active YMCA professionals) and we retirees did well with contributions in 2008. The next

year was a dud for both groups, losing ground badly. We bounced back last year as AYR recorded our highest production ever, at 950 gifts totaling \$89,821, an increase over 2008 by \$9,486. AYP did not surpass that year however. That makes me extra proud of you.

AYP asked me to contact Fred Hoshiyama to see if he will write an EAF testimonial for their newsletter. Fred is well known to actives due to his many speaking appearances with Y-USA and AYP programs over the years. I know Fred will respond positively and quickly as usual. His December grant is our latest.

Please give as generously as possible. Your best friend may be our next grant recipient. ♦

Dale Ventres is AYR Chair of the Emergency Assistance Fund. Email: dventres@aol.com

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initiatives is ever present among Y retirees.

Often, retirees, through their continued contacts with prior YMCA colleagues, have bits and pieces of information which, when added to the bits and pieces from others, can add up to the makings of a good conversation.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2011 Reunion in San Diego in September. Registration is still open, and any information you might need on registration or the conference can be found in this issue and at www.yretiree.org. ♦

Julius Jones is President of the AYR Board of Directors. Email: jayjaygp@msn.com

Rich Collato Appointed AYR Liaison To Fund Trustees

By Vanessa Boulous

We are pleased to announce that Rich Collato has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as the liaison to the YMCA Retirement Fund Board.

Collato recently retired as CEO of the YMCA of San Diego County and has provided leadership to the

YMCA Movement in YMCAs that include San Diego County, Los Angeles, and Greater New York. He has served as a volunteer Retirement Fund trustee for more than a decade.



Rich

Collato will provide a direct line of communication between the Fund's Board and the AYR Board, and will

be invited to attend board and committee meetings as a non-voting participant. We are grateful that Rich has agreed to serve in this important role that connects



Vanessa

YMCA retirees to the Fund. ♦

Vanessa Boulous is Senior Vice President for YMCA Relations at the YMCA Retirement Fund. Email: boulous@ymcaret.org



AYR appreciates the ongoing support of the YMCA Retirement Fund.

Chapter Check-In

... **John Brooks** reports members of the **Southern Arizona Cluster** of the **Grand Canyon Chapter** met late last month at the Northwest Branch of the YMCA of Southern Arizona, a comprehensive, beautiful facility shared by the Pima County Community Center. It included a tour of the Y, lunch, a presentation by **Devieva Knight**, branch director, and a short business meeting ...

... The long, snowy winter in New England has finally subsided enough to bring the **New England YMCA Alumni Chapter** together for a late spring Berkshire Blast May 11-12 in Lenox, Mass. The chapter recently welcomed four new members, say **Skip** and **Natalie Raymond**, co-editors of the chapter newsletter ...

... Spring was in bloom as the **Chambers Chapter** met at the Holiday Inn Express in Bellevue, Ky., April 26-28. Keynote speaker was **Gary Griesser**, retired deputy superintendent of the Boone County Schools, with a presentation called, "Ingredients for Abundant Living." There's also a Webinar planned with Y-USA's Marketing Manager **Kate Coleman** on the Y's branding and logo program. Tours were to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Newport Aquarium, and Creation Museum ...

... The annual Spring Gathering of the **Hoosier-Buell Chapter** was held just as this issue of *AYReports* was going to press. Site was the Hilton Garden Inn in Elkhart, Ind. There was plenty of fellowship on the agenda, plus a wide choice of tours like the Jayco RV Production Center, RV Hall of Fame, Ruthmere

Museum, golf at the Blackthorn course, the NY Central Railroad Museum, and more ...

... **Bill** and **Barbara Parkhurst** hosted the **Marston Chapter's** International Pot-Luck at their clubhouse at the High Country Club in San Diego in March. Everyone brought a favorite ethnic dish. A prize was awarded the member in the most authentic outfit ...

... **Lyons Chapter** members attended a dinner theater performance of the musical *Singin' in the Rain* in early May at the Candlelight Pavilion in Upland, Calif. 1920's Hollywood was the setting for this zany, lighthearted romantic comedy about the early days of sound film ...

... Members of the **New England, Central Atlantic, McBurney/Morse, Harbison, and Ellenwood Chapters** will gather at the **Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks** May 24-26. Don't miss **Bruce Tamlyn's** story about the history and present day Silver Bay in this issue's center-spread ...

... The **Messer Chapter's** 80th Annual Meeting is all set at the Lake Ellyn Park Pavilion in Glen Ellyn, Ill., June 8 ...

... **Curt** and **Vera Thompson** founded a loosely knit self-sustaining group of retirees in 1993 for the sole purposes of fellowship with other Y retirees. They meet once every month for dinner, arranged by the host of the month. No board, no officers, no dues. Jim Arnot tells us the 10 retirees (19 people including spouses) represent 317 years of YMCA service. The



(Top) Ellenwood Chapter member Joe McCranel at the 37th Albany AYP conference March 2-4. Joe is sharing one of the new AYR brochures.

(Bottom) Tom Steen, recently retired from the Hartford YMCA, visited the AYR booth and will attend the Four Chapter "Spring Fling" at Silver Bay May 24-26. He is pictured with Bob Anthony (left) and Peg Price.

group is called **WAMMBJFTTT**, formed by the first letter of everyone's last name ...

... **Connie Zimmerman** tells us the **John R. Mott Chapter** held their spring meeting as April came to a close in Charles City, Iowa. Hosts for the event were **Ralph** and **Judy Thornton**. Members visited the Charles City YMCA and the Floyd County Museum, as well as participating in the chapter meeting ...

Many chapter events were held the end of April and early May so we're missing out on photos because of the deadline for this issue. We'll do our best to catch you up next time.

GOLDEN TREASURES

- 70 Years** Lillian and Stuart Macdonald, Toms River, N.J., May 29
- 67 Years** Mae and Jim Kinsman, Catonsville, Md., June 2
- 66 Years** Dee and Frank Kiehne, Reading, Pa., June 17
- 65 Years** Twila and Doug Sutherland, Raymore, Mo., May 23
Mary and Maurry Schantz, Unionville, ON., June 1
Doris and Jack Nantz, Greensboro, N.C., June 7
- 64 Years** Connie and Dan Norte, Cortland, N.Y., June 21
Ebbie and Joe Tharpe, Florissant, Mo., June 21
Harriett and Bill Larkin, Corpus Christi, Texas, June 22
Mary and Neal Schreiner, Longview, Texas, June 28
- 63 Years** Virginia and Harold Buckner, Kingston, Ariz., June 6
Edna and Paul Emery, Rock Hill, S.C., June 12
Doris and Ted Hawkins, St. Louis, Mo., June 12
Jane and Hal Wright, Simsbury, Conn., June 19
Carol and Dick Sisler, Edina, Minn., June 25
Marion and John Malinowski, So. Amboy, N.J., June 26
- 62 Years** Gloria and Carlton Lee, Oscoda, Mich., May 7
Janet and Jack Wiley, Kirkland, Wash., May 27
Hilda and Ernie Glenesk, Santa Maria, Calif., June 4
Jean and Bob O'Melia, Dover, N.J., June 8
Ann and Ollie Nelson, Yakima, Wash., June 11
Barbara and Andy Balerud, Visalia, Calif., June 12
Nell and Rembert Garris, Charleston, S.C., June 18
Norma and Keith Latter, Woodstock, ON., June 18
- 61 Years** Barbara and Deak Preble, Bend, Ore., May 27
Carolyn and Vernon Bradley, Peace Dale, R.I., June 3
Mary and Bill McAllister, St. Louis, Mo., June 4
Barb and Bob Schmidt, San Diego, Calif., June 11
Shirley and Charles Pead, Bradenton, Fla., June 17
Jean and Marvin Van Metre, Haines City, Fla., June 18
Mary and Nolan Younkman, Punta Gorda, Fla., June 18
- 60 Years** Kay and Darwin Haines, Gig Harbor, Wash., May 2
Anne and Dan Flanagan, Venice, Fla., May 5
Gene and Clyde Bullard, Corsicana, Texas, May 19
Faye and Glen Werner, Duncanville, Texas, June 2
Marilyn and Chuck Wise, Milwaukee, Wis., June 2
Fran and Matt Johnson, Weston, Conn., June 5
Zan and George Edmiston, Covington, Ky., June 12
Rachel and Art Eckenrode, Jacobus, Pa., June 16
Bobbie and Dick Protzmann, Oconomowoc, Wis., June 18
- 59 Years** Jackie and Ben Uyesato, Baldwin, Mo., May 4
Beth and Gordon Saunders, Sault Ste. Marie, ON., May 10
Gini and Dave Potts, Haddonfield, N.J., June 7
Sue and Bob Denzer, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, June 8
Iris and Ken Little, Grapeview, Wash., June 8
Barbara and Bob Miller, Columbus, Ore., June 9
Stella and Phil Thorn, Okmulgee, Okla., June 9
Margie and Don Dome, Bradenton, Fla., June 14
Joan and Walter Jacoby, Penney Farms, Fla., June 14
Ginny and Gordon Ramsay, Markham, ON., June 14
Betsy and Dick Stoll, Kirkwood, Mo., June 14
Bernie and Bill Taylor, Watertown, N.Y., June 14
- 58 Years** Darline and Wade Eubanks, Louisville, Ky., May 9
Sue and Forest Thomasson, Richmond, Va., May 30
Dona and Cliff Lothery, Mount Prospect, Ill., June 6
Beverly and Harold Xavier, Gloucester, Mass., June 19
Beverly and Clayton Piepkorn, Roseville, Minn., June 21
June and Bob Tacy, Modesto, Calif., June 21
Janice and Kenn Thompson, Groton, Mass., June 27
- 57 Years** Joyce and Marvin Erdal, Beach Park, Ill., May 22
Barbara and George Williams, Meadow Ridge, W.Va., June 5
Peg and Walt Price, Syracuse, N.Y., June 13
Marion and Peter Whitaker, Richmond, Vt., June 13
Wanda and Wayne Farrar, Burlington, Ky., June 19
Ruth and Don Idecker, Coraopolis, Pa., June 19
Else and Jerry Turner, Sequim, Wash., June 26
- 56 Years** Anne and Ben Childers, Waycross, Ga., May 14
Pat and Tom Thrailkill, Swannanona, N.C., May 28
Lois and Denis Adams, Georgetown, Texas, June 5
Halle and Dave Widner, Sun Rise Beach, Texas, June 11
Jean and Jim Kubin, Pearland, Texas, June 18
Betty and Al Lekan, Strongsville, Ohio, June 26
- 55 Years** Barbara and Fred Baxter, Clifton Park, N.Y., May 19
Marilyn and Fred Bezanson, Sedona, Ariz., May 19
Nancy and Paul Bachrodt, Rockford, Ill., May 26
Lois and Owen Sanderson, Hamden, Conn., May 26
Helena and Fred Hanna, Auburn, Wash., June 9
Betty and Don Hardesty, Noblesville, Ind., June 16
Barbara and Fred Fuerst, Fripp Island, S.C., June 23
- 54 Years** Lois and James Simon, LaPorte, Ind., May 4
Nanci and Ron Keneipp, Mansfield, Texas, May 25
Vicky and Dick May, Nokomis, Fla., June 4
Betty and Bob Jurci, Naples, Fla., June 15
Doreen and Sandy Charles Keir, Manotick, ON., June 15
- 53 Years** Carole and Ben Loiacono, Tarpon Springs, Fla., May 24
Ruth and Tom Harp, Appleton, Wis., June 2
Theresa and Richard Adams, Mineola, Fla., June 7
Sally and Ron Kinnamon, Chicago, Ill., June 7
Lou and Dave Bergman, St. Joseph, Mich., June 14
Pat and John Dobbins, Canton, N.C., June 14
- 52 Years** Lois and Dan Sauder, Pittsgrove, N.J., May 16
Gladys and Wayne Petersen, Republican City, Neb., May 24
Janet and Richard Hansen, Hillsboro, Ore., May 30
Janet and Robert Ferguson, Clearwater, Fla., June 13
Geri and Jim Ingram, Black Mountain, N.C., June 13
Eva and Val McClure, Arroyo Grande, Calif., June 21
Diane and Fritz Simonsen, Blairsville, Ga., June 26
Alice and Carl Gaites, Venice, Fla., June 27
Shirley and Phil Hellwege, Creve Coeur, Mo., June 27
- 51 Years** Inez and Clark Koechel, Fond du Lac, Wis., June 5
Janet and Bob Soong, Fanwood, N.J., June 5
Jean and Niel Allen, Dearborn, Mich., June 6
Barbara and Jim Sturms, Muscatine, Iowa, June 11
- 50 Years** Ann and Len Cuneo, Brewster, Mass., June 10

Send your Golden Treasure listing to Clark Koechel, N7576, Sandy Beach Road, Fond du Lac, Wis. 54935. E-mail: ick2@charter.net.

PART ONE: OUR YMCA CONFERENCE CENTERS

The 'Wishard' Of Silver Bay

By Bruce Tamlyn

The founding and history of Silver Bay is a remarkable demonstration of how the Holy Spirit works through the hearts and minds of faithful people to create an organization dedicated to teaching people about the Kingdom of God.



Bruce

It all began in the late 1800s when Silas and Mary Paine first came to the area on a recommendation of a friend and stayed at John J. Wilson's Farm Boarding House on the shores of Lake George in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

Wilson would eventually change the name to the Silver Bay House, a name that captured the beauty of the moonlight reflecting off the water. The Paines eventually purchased a piece of property just north of the Silver Bay House from Wilson and built a beautiful home.

Then, in 1897, Paine purchased the Silver Bay House from Wilson and embarked on a building program that grew the Silver Bay House from an accommodation capability of 100 to one that could host 600 guests.

While these events were unfolding on the shores of Lake George, Luther D. Wishard, a secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA, was recovering from an

appendicitis operation at a hospital in Chicago.

Training Center

One of Wishard's hospital visitors was a friend, Will Johnson, whose uncle was Silas Paine. Johnson mentioned to Wishard that his uncle recently had bought a hotel on the shores of Lake George. Wishard, who knew of the Paines, had been searching for a YMCA training center in the East.

Wishard was traveling in the Lake George region a year later in 1900. He recalled that conversation with

his friend, and felt a sudden urge to visit the Silver Bay property.

Here's what he wrote in his journal: "It was a day of visions and dreams, another day of destiny with which the great Pathfinder had marked my

life . . . I had a vision of another City of God coming down from God out of heaven, peopled with young men and maidens . . ."

Wishard was satisfied "another great spiritual rendezvous had been discovered," after spending just two hours at the Silver Bay Hotel. This place, he thought, was exactly right for a training conference center for the YMCA.

Man Of Action

A man of action, Wishard returned to New York City and wired Silas and Mary Paine to expect a guest for breakfast the next morning. As Wishard arrived, Paine greeted him with the words, "Where have you been?"

"I have come from Silver Bay," Wishard responded, "and I am here to ask you to devote Silver Bay to Christian Assemblies for the study of Bible and missions." Paine, speechless for a moment,



The Inn at Silver Bay, now and then.

responded, "Do you mean it?" "I certainly do," said Wishard. "Very well," Paine said, "you can have it. I have long wanted to utilize it for such a purpose, but never knew how to go about it."

Those words spoken by Silas Paine made it possible for hundreds of thousands of lives to have been touched, inspired, and enriched over the past 109 years by this place, which is today known as the Silver Bay YMCA. It is impossible to fathom the impact of this gift to the YMCA.

Wishard and his family were living at Silver Bay and planning for the first conference within a month of that historic meeting. Subsequently, the Forward Movement Council on Bible Study and Foreign Missions of The Congregational Churches with 200 delegates met at Silver Bay in 1901.

A SIDENOTE: The Congregational Church, now known as the United Church of Christ, will be meeting at Silver Bay in June 2011, some 110 years later.

The subsequent history of Silver Bay includes a number of major developments. Silver Bay became the summer home of Springfield College from 1903-1911 under the direction of Laurence L. Doggett.

Boy Scouts Began Here

Here's one you might not know: The founding of the Boy Scouts of America took place at Silver Bay in 1910.

The YMCA Industrial Institute began meeting at Silver Bay in 1918 and this group will again meet here in 2011 for its 93rd conference. The Silver Bay Boys School began operation that same year. This

school was a preparatory school for young men and continued operation until 1935.

The effects of the Depression necessitated the support of the General Board of the YMCA to Silver Bay in 1935 to ensure its continued operation. The number of conferences coming to Silver Bay grew in numbers and in size during this period.

Silver Bay celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1952.. The popular conference center began to serve conferences on a year-around basis in 1976 and moved its management offices from Glens Falls, N.Y., to Silver Bay.

The Brookside Community House ministry, a program mainly designed for pastors and their families to come to Silver Bay for retreats began in 1998. The Trinity House building was added to this ministry in 2003.

Variety Of Programs

Silver Bay serves upwards of 15,000 people a year, in a wide variety of programs including conferences, family reunions, retreats, local residents, and members from around the country if not the world.

There is a year-round staff of 60 and a summer staff of 225. Silver Bay provides programs in the arts and humanities, for children, families, holistic, recreational, and spiritual in

Editor's Note: Be sure to read Part Two of this series in our July-August issue featuring the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly.



Inspiration Point on Lake George.

a beautiful inspirational and historically rich setting. Some families have been coming to Silver Bay for generations and others have just come recently.

Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks stands in the heritage of our Christian tradition, and welcomes all people.

The future is bright. Silver Bay is on the verge of launching the largest capital campaign in its history. Our vision to provide respite and retreat for all is being enjoyed by more and more people each and every year.

What is Silver Bay? I characterize it this way: Silver Bay is a place where one comes to know at the depths of their soul they are created to love and be loved. Silver Bay offers people opportunities to renew, refresh, grow, and nurture their spirit, mind, and body. This has been Silver Bay's calling for more than a century, and continues to be our mission today. ◆

Bruce Tamlyn is Chaplain of the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks. He is a regular contributor to AYReports. Email: wbtbsa@aol.com

Expect Inspiring Moments, Reunion Adventures In September

By Pat Ritter

Get ready for some great times at our AYR Reunion 2011, Sept. 13-17 at the Town and Country Resort in sunny San Diego, Calif.

We will come together each morning for breakfast and then gather for fellowship and to become inspired by amazing keynoters and Y friends.



Pat

Shawn Mitchell, chaplain of the San Diego Chargers NFL team,

opens the first session with quips and stories from the gridiron. Oscar Escalada reflects on memories of his quest to expand Y compassion and programs to families and children of Latin America.

Bill Butterworth, an author and popular motivational speaker, will challenge you, then make you laugh at his thoughts and stories about life and family. We all will be able to relate to these in our own lives.

AYR President Julius Jones, YMCA

of the USA President Neil Nicoll, and AYP Executive Director Donna French Dunn will each offer greetings and updates from their respective national organizations.

Special times include: "We Remember," as we honor departed Y friends; EAF testimonials and raffle; Retirement Fund update; World Service, Secours Speciaux, and recognition of those unsung retired heroes who served the profession quietly and humbly.

Former physical directors, Human Resource officers, CFOs, and AYR newsletter editors reunite to reminisce about old times and to make new memories in San Diego. Click to www.yretiree.org for more details on speakers and agenda.

REUNION

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... You?

By Ryan Bean

For most of its existence, the Kautz Family YMCA Archives history was physically part of the National YMCA headquarters. This meant that our mission and purpose was very similar to a corporate library or archive; to support the day-to-day business operations of the organization.

A side effect of this mission was that the personal papers of those who were part of the YMCA Movement by and large went to other institutions. For example, Yale Divinity

School has a significant cache of materials from YMCA Foreign Secretaries, including one of our most famous brothers, John Mott. Howard Hopkins mentioned this void of personal papers and the challenge it presented in his book,



Ryan

History of the Y.M.C.A in North America.

Prior to Hopkins's book, there was an effort in the 1920s to capture some information on the

people who make up the Movement. This took the form of a sort of "Who's Who" questioner, soliciting basic information. Those files were occasionally added to in later years by staff, mostly in the form of obituaries, news clippings, and generic listings of positions held within the YMCA.

It has been decades since a serious effort was made to capture the human side of the work. That is where you, as AYR members, come in. The Kautz Family YMCA Archives will be soliciting and accepting material for our biographical files this summer.

We understand people within the YMCA Movement tend to be humble to a fault, so we will have a form that allows you to submit on someone else's behalf. This is your chance to set the record straight on your accomplishments or to make sure that someone who made a significant impact on you or your community will be saved for posterity.

Here's how to participate: Visit our website (www.lib.umn.edu/ymca/memory)

BEAN

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK:

On Becoming Irresistible

By Craig Altschul

Some among us might argue we become "irresistible" once we reach that certain seasoned retirement age. The fact is some of us just become "resistible."



Craig We once welcomed change and innovation. We were leaders, not followers. We spent our long YMCA careers mixing it up, changing it out, and living on the leading edge of our community's needs.

Why, then, just because we no longer toil in those day-to-day YMCA trenches, do a good many Y retirees insist we can let this technological age pass us by? We old dogs can learn new tricks.

Technology began slapping us upside the head when that thing called the Internet surfaced for real in the mid-to-late 1990s.

Why do we resist? We're smart. We ran outposts of one of the world's most respected grassroots movements. We managed ever-growing budgets, figured out spreadsheets, printouts and balance sheets, inspired boards of community leaders, raised untold numbers of dollars, managed staffs, and were looked up to as role models by so many kids.

So, let me make a suggestion to those among us still resisting anything with an "i" in front of its name: You are missing out on a

whole lot of information, communication, education, and a wide world of fun. Don't tune me out; bear with me.

I used to be one of you. I resisted for a while, until a very large client of ours said, in so many words, "Get with the technology or get lost." I got with the technology.

Technology has progressed so fast that using a computer, smart phone, iPad, or Kindle, and social networking has become truly easy to access and understand.

All of which brings me to my point. AYR will be transitioning, albeit gradually next year, to where we can bring you *AYReports* in a new, dynamic, regularly updated, exciting, online production.

No, the baby will not be tossed out with the bathwater entirely, but this "baby" is costly to produce. It has to be written and designed so that every story fits exactly. It has to be printed, sorted, has to play by arcane Post Office rules, and takes two weeks or more to find you.

Worse, it eats up AYR's budget. That limits the amount of information, timely news, feature stories, and opinion pieces we can bring you.

But, there are no limits if we were to publish it online. Cost is reduced by more than half. You will be amazed how much you enjoy it. We promise. Someday, you might even say, "I remember when this newsletter used to be printed."

We need those among us who are still "resistible" — and age should have nothing at all to do with it — to become "irresistible." Need some help? Call the grandkids to come over. They'll be thrilled to become your tutors. ♦

Craig Altschul is Editor of AYReports. Email: caltschul@earthlink.net

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and download a form. You may also write or email us and request a form be sent to you (see address below). Instructions will be provided with the forms.

I can hardly wait to see what we receive. I know that amazing things were happening in recent YMCA history, but scholarly interest has not yet reached "modern" times. Your submissions will ensure that the continuing story of the YMCA is preserved and, most importantly, that story will have the human element that makes it so much richer.

To request a form in writing send a request to:

Kautz Family YMCA Archives
Memory Project
222 21st Ave So. Ste. 318
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(Please indicate if you would like a form for yourself or a form for another individual. Also, please limit your request to no more than five forms.) ♦

Ryan Bean is Research and Outreach Archivist at the Kautz Family YMCA Archives. Email: benx029@umn.edu

No Longer 'Joiners?'

By Bill Cameron

One of the benefits of bringing together AYR's leaders, as we did earlier this year, is that we get a chance to share ideas, experiences, insights, plans, and worries from our chapters across the USA.



Bill

Some themes emerged as the chapter leaders at that meeting told their stories (no two the same).

AYR members are having a good time at chapter events, not only because of the events themselves, but also because they enjoy staying in touch with their fellow YMCA retirees.

There is a trend toward regional, inter-chapter get-togethers, generally lasting several days.

With some exceptions, though, chapters are having problems; some are deeply concerned about their future. Membership is slipping. Attendance isn't what it used to be. The median age of chapter members is trending up. Recruitment of recent retirees is proving challenging. It's getting harder to get members to serve as chapter officers.

I had a thoughtful conversation at that meeting with the president of one of AYR's eastern chapters. He was speculating about why it's hard to interest newer retirees in AYR and he had an interesting theory. Part of the problem, he said, is that people

just aren't "joiners" the way they used to be.

I've been thinking about that ever since.

I went to Google and typed in "membership trends in organizations." Up popped scores of websites with names like, "Fraternal Organizations Battle Declining Membership," "Lodges Face Dwindling Membership," "Shriners Battle Sinking Membership," "Decline in Masonic Membership."

There were articles about the falloff in membership at other fraternal organizations (Odd Fellows, Moose, Elks), service clubs, veterans' organizations, auxiliary groups, and other kinds of membership organizations, including many religious congregations and denominations.

Clearly, that chapter president had a point. The aversion to joining didn't just happen; my Google search also called up the best-selling book of 15 years back, *Bowling Alone*, which chronicled the decline of joining. The author, Robert Putnam, fretted that communities were losing vital "social capital" as people spent more time in solitary pursuits and less in group participation.

In persuading people to be "joiners," AYR has some advantages. Our potential members are people who've been involved in their communities, people who seek participation, people who are accustomed to joint enterprises.

Our challenge is to make our

chapter life so appealing and vibrant that new retirees, fresh from a Movement that values connections and relationships, will want to sign up. ♦

Bill Cameron is Vice President/East of the AYR National Board. Email: billcameron@comcast.net

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There will be plenty of free time to visit the newly remodeled San Diego Zoo, renowned as one of the finest in the world. Enjoy Balboa Park, Shamu Whale show at Sea World, or visit the downtown harbor scene where the U.S.S. Midway is available for tours. You also will want to discover other historic sites off the beaten tourist path.

For example, locate the hotel named for a U.S. president; the first mission in California; the village known as "the jewel;" the site of the first Spanish and Mexican settlement; the research institute named for a famous scientist best known for the polio vaccine; or the restaurant where Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis fell in love in the movie *Top Gun*.

Explore other fun-filled options at <http://www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors/VisitorInformation>

Something special awaits you at Reunion 2011. What? You're not registered yet? You don't want to miss the Reunion and we don't want to miss seeing you. ♦

Pat Ritter is chair of the 2011 AYR Reunion. Email: PSritter@aol.com

Renew The Spirit: Fun, Friends, Fellowship

AYR REUNION 2011 ♦ SAN DIEGO

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“*The Hand of God – It must have opened wide
 When fashioning this place in which we meet;
 Majestic mountains rise on every side
 From waters, deep and clear, which lave our feet.
 No other spot excels – search where you may –
 This bit of heaven on earth called Silver Bay.*”

— W.W. Stewart

Be sure to read *The ‘Wishard’ Of Silver Bay*, Pages 6 and 7.

