



# New England Scene

Newsletter of the New England Chapter of the North American Fellowship of YMCA Retirees, Inc.

F A L L 2 0 0 8

I S S U E 1 2

## CO-PRESIDENTS' THOUGHTS

By Len & Ann Cuneo

The NAFYR Reunion is history. We owe much gratitude to the leadership of Chuck and Nancy Goding co-chairs of the Cruise Committee. They did an outstanding job of organizing and conducting this event. They made sure that every small detail as well as the large issues went off without a hitch. The 200+ NAFYR participants had a wonderful time due to Chuck and Nancy's flawless planning. MANY THANKS CHUCK AND NANCY FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

On board the Maasdam, we conducted our Chapter Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 4. We had 25 members and 4 guests in attendance. We had three members who had never attended one of our chapter activities in the past join us. They were Fred Toot and Dave and Janet Haines. The 4 guests were NAFYR Vice President, Walt Price and his wife Peggy, Mary Tikalsky of the YMCA of USA and Bonnie Mairs of Secours Speciaux. Mary and Bonnie took a few minutes to bring us up to date on YMCA World Service and Secours Speciaux. During our Annual meeting, Chuck Goding read a letter from Andy Anderson who was recovering from surgery. It outlined his health issues and progress on his recovery. Chuck also gave a status health

## CRUISE REUNION GREAT

## SUCCESS THANKS TO CHAPTER

By Nancy & Chuck Goding

By every account some 210 NAFYR members had a grand cruise experience thanks largely to the New England Chapter. Every key position on the Planning Committee was filled by a fellow chapter member. Playing major roles over several years were: Ann and Len Cuneo with the program responsibilities, Nancy and Bob Hoffman with hospitality, Mary and Lou Falk with promotion, Nancy and Bob Fitzgerald with finances and Jean Whitney with trips and tours. In addition Micki and Ray Jacoby had a central role during the cruise with the presentation of international program opportunities.

In retrospect we believe we offered a fine mix of organized NAFYR events but left plenty of time for in port touring and the on board "fellowship" (which just happens to be our middle name). Holland America held up their part of the deal with gracious service, great food and excellent entertainment. The weather gods did their part providing outstanding weather conditions and lovely fall colors for those of us who bussed back to Boston via the Green Mountains.

It is our bias view that the event went according to our plans, projections and expectations from



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## CO-PRESIDENTS' THOUGHTS

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report on Jean Butcher. The Andersons and Jean had planned to be on the cruise but health issues prevented them from doing so.

Although Treasurer Allen Beavers was not in attendance, he submitted a financial report which indicated our cash position after three quarters of 2007-2008. We are \$10,844.51 in the positive. Committee reports from the Newsletter, Program, Membership, Needs and Cares and the Cruise Committees were presented.

During the Annual Meeting Bob and Nancy Hoffman, co-chairs of the Service Committee, gave a report on our Chapter Grants for 2008. They reported that they used the criteria for our New England Chapter NAFYR financial support of people/organizations that had been previously adopted by our Executive Committee. It was noted that at our previous Chapter Meeting held in the Berkshires nine organizations were identified as possible recipients. They recommended the following six organizations to receive our financial support at this time. They were unanimously approved by all members present. They are: International Senior Service Corps, \$1,000, The Emergency Assistance Fund \$750, Secours Speciaux, \$1,000, Sioux YMCA, \$500, YMCA World Service, \$250, Fayetteville Armed Service YMCA, \$500. This totals \$4,000 which represents funds that were contributed by members to our chapter, profits from our May 2008 Silent Auction in the Berkshires and a small amount of funds left over from Chapter Program Events. We did not fund Novosibirsk Russian YMCA, Camp Beckett/Chimney Corners and



*Beaver Tail Lighthouse, RI*

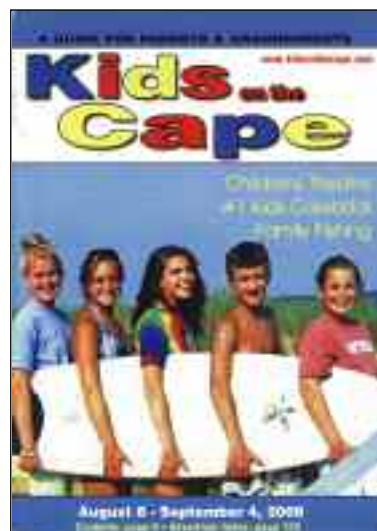
the Jerusalem International YMCA at this time. It was reported that our cruise will have some funds left after all bills are paid. The members attending voted unanimously that once the amount available is known that these funds should be given to eligible organizations by our Service Committee.

We urge all New England Chapter members to join our National NAFYR Organization. They have instituted a membership fee of \$25.00 effective October 1, 2008, for one person or a couple.

We believe strongly in the Emergency Assistance Fund and urge your financial support for the 2008 campaign.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful fall.

## GRANDPARENTS' CORNER



*Left to right: Kelly MacLean, Becky Dulka, Lee Domiecka, Greg Dulka, Brooke MacLean.*

Kelly and Brook MacLean, granddaughters of Matt and Fran Johnson, were featured on the cover of "Kids on

the Cape". Their mother, Mary, won a photo contest for this picture which certainly shows what fun kids can have on the Cape.

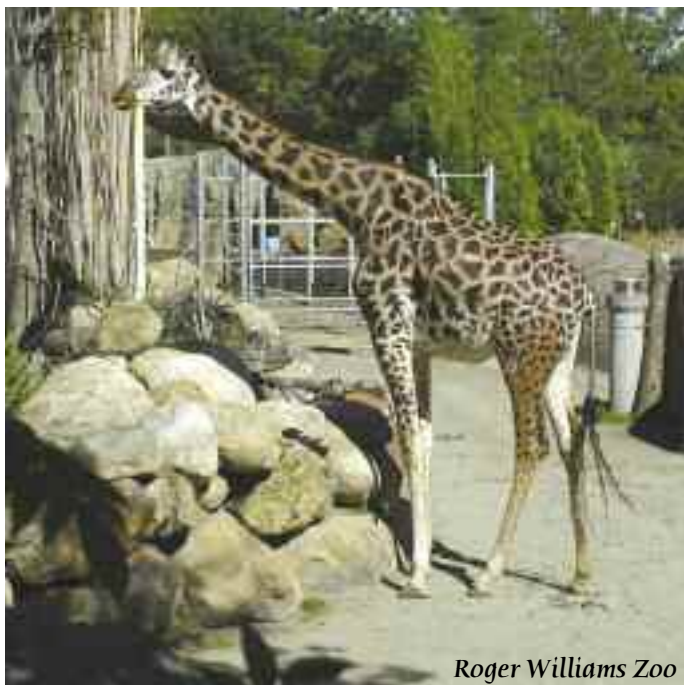
Kelly is starting her Freshman year at Springfield College. Thank you, Matt and Fran, for sharing this great picture with us.

If any others have pictures or stories about your children or grandchildren which you would like to share with the group, please send them to us and we'll publish them in New England Scene. You can mail them to Ellen Fairbend, 28 L'Hermitage Dr., Shelton, CT, or e-mail to [efairbend@comcast.net](mailto:efairbend@comcast.net).

## NEWS FROM YOUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Nancy & Bob Fitzgerald

**ROGER WILLIAMS ZOO PARK:** On October 7th, a group of 20 New England Chapter members gathered at the Zoo and enjoyed a Planetarium Show in the morning, followed by lunch and fellowship and then an opportunity to walk around and visit all the animal sights. All the arrangements for this outing were done by Joan and Dick Hamblin, and we thank them for their work. It is so much fun to get together without an agenda to experience the fellowship for which we all joined NAFYR.



Ellen Fairbend

Roger Williams Zoo

**NOVEMBER AREA LUNCHESES:** These area lunches were popular last spring so we are trying again to get Chapter members together locally and to reach out to those retirees who are not members but might attend a one day function. On November 13th Chuck and Nancy Goding will host a luncheon and program at the East Hartford Branch YMCA. The program speaker will be Marcy MacDonald, a swim coach for the younger swimmers of the YMCA team. Marcy is an accomplished swimmer and has swum the English Channel several times. She will share these experiences with us. This will be followed by a luncheon,

during which we can continue to interact informally with Marcy. TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON, PLEASE CALL CHUCK GODING AT 860-568-0846.

Later on in November, Ken Brockway is planning a luncheon and visit to the Tennis International Hall of Fame. This is a wonderful sport's venue to visit and to revel in the amazing history of tennis. More information for this luncheon will be available after October 7th and will be mailed to those in the Rhode Island area or to anyone who requests it. Call Nancy and Bob Fitzgerald if you would like to receive information on this program - 869-568-2607.

**SPRING EVENTS:** Several Chapters will gather at Frost Valley in late April. At our Annual Meeting New England Chapter members voted to attend this event but also to have a one day gathering of our own. Len and Ann Cuneo are our Program Committee Representatives for Frost Valley. The rest of the committee is working on a one day program in the Sturbridge or Worcester area. If you have any suggestions or preferences for this mid-May program, please call Nancy and Bob Fitzgerald at 860-568-2607.

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## RHODE ISLAND

By Ellen Fairbend

We've chosen Rhode Island to feature in this issue of New England Scene since we just visited it for our October meeting and were reminded of what a great little state it is.

The first documented explorer to reach Rhode Island was Giovanni Verranzano. He made the voyage to the New World in search of the Northwest Passage in 1524 and sailed to what is now Block Island. He described it's size as the "bigness of the Isle of Rhodes." That is apparently how the state of Rhode Island got its

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# Harbor to Harbour Cruise

*Photos by Ellen Fairbend*



*Clockwise from top left:  
Leaving Boston, Bar Harbor,  
Peggy's Cove, House of Anne of  
Green Gables, The Maasdam*





*Clockwise from left: Lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, Bar Harbor, Chateau Frontenac, Prince Edward Island, Church on Prince Edward Island, Peggy's Cove*



## EDITOR'S PAD

Greg Fairbend

Well it's over! It has come and gone! It has been for the planning team a labor of love, of problem solving, of program design, intensity, and of details. And then all too fast the 2008 National NAFYR "HARBOR to HARBOR" CRUISE is over, gone, finished!

What's left? Over 200 NAFYR family members and friends with smiles, words of thanks and appreciation and hundreds of pictures of anything and everything between Boston and Montreal including those small animals welcoming you to your bed each night. These creatures, the product of the creativity of our room stewards, were made by the special ways our towels were folded. What a surprise each evening.

The New England NAFYR Chapter made a decision over four years ago to offer NAFYR members a cruise for the NAFYR 2008 Reunion. Our resident Cruise Experts, Nancy and Chuck Goding, had the answers to all the questions: What cruise agency to work with, what cruise company, what ship and finally what itinerary? Nancy

and Chuck with a New England Chapter planning team of Nancy and Bob Hoffman, Nancy and Bob Fitzgerald, Mary and Lou Falk, Allen Beavers, Judy and Cliff Moss, John and Phyllis Barclay and ex-officio members Len and Ann Cuneo and Barb and Andy Anderson truly did it folks.

Personally, we had never been on a cruise before. I believe it was a perfect first experience. The ship size, the amenities, the itinerary, the fellowship, the carefree atmosphere all served to make these two cruising sailors very happy. How nice it was to have somebody else worry about meals, the correct course, the wind, its amount and direction and our fuel and water supply.

The New England Chapter's can-do way of approaching things is a direct credit to our leadership past and present. And of course the willingness of Chapter members to lend their expertise when called upon.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the "HARBOR to HARBOR" CRUISE the bar by which all future chapter and national NAFYR events will be measured.

And now, the leaves, the laundry, and making that bed must be dealt with – oh the pain of reality.

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## RHODE ISLAND

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name. Providence, was founded in 1636 as a settlement by the English clergyman, Roger Williams, after he was banished by the Massachusetts Great and General Court.

Rhode Island, smallest of the 50 states, is densely populated and highly industrialized. It is a major center for jewelry manufacturing. Electronics, metal, plastic products, and boat and ship construction are other important



**Pomham Rocks, RI**

industries. Non-manufacturing employment includes research in health, medicine, and the ocean environ-

ment. Providence is a wholesale distribution center for New England.

Fishing ports are at Galilee and Newport. Rural areas of the state support small-scale farming, including grapes for local wineries, turf grass, and nursery stock. Tourism generates over a billion dollars a year in revenue.

Newport became famous as the summer capital of high society in the mid-19th century. Touro Synagogue (1763) is the oldest in the U.S. Other points of interest include the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence, Samuel Slater's Mill in Pawtucket, the General Nathanael Greene Homestead in Coventry, and Block Island.

Block Island is an island off southern Rhode Island near the eastern entrance to Long Island Sound named for the Dutch explorer, Adriaen Block, who visited the island in 1614. Block Island was first settled in 1661. It became part of Rhode Island in 1663.

## WORLD SERVICE

By Peter Post

The results of your YMCA World Service contributions were tremendous! Thanks to all retirees for your increased overall support last year! You are strengthening the critical work of the YMCAs throughout the world and changing millions of lives. We are working hard to expand strong youth development programs and we ask for your increased support and encouragement in creating a better world.

Raising awareness of and support for YMCAs worldwide gives testimony of our deep commitment to the development of all people and helps share our mission to serve all people. YMCA World Service supports the development of more than 2 million people each year. We are successful in creating strong YMCAs that deliver high quality programs with dedicated local leaders in the areas of health education, youth leadership, service-learning, character, health and skills of young leaders who are helping their families and transforming their communities.

Find out more by visiting our website at [www.ymca.net/worldservice](http://www.ymca.net/worldservice). Please contact me or Mary Tikalsky at 1 800 872 9622 ext. 8371 if you have any questions or need more information.



*Shepards Dept Store, Providence, RI*

*Newport Bridge, Newport, RI*



## CRUISE REUNION SUCCESS

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beginning to end. The Boston hotel proved to be a perfect kickoff venue. We believe that our guests felt warmly welcomed and sensed they would be participating in a well thought through and organized event. Moving three bus loads of cruisers from the hotel to the pier went flawlessly and then the Maasdam left for the Atlantic right on time. For the next four days we visited interesting and very different ports. While in Bar Harbor several dozen alumni of George Williams College gathered at a local hotel for lunch and a visit with the President of their college (now part of Aurora University near Chicago). The President flew out just for that event. Later in the cruise, not be out done, Springfield College alums gathered to share memories and to get caught up on college doings. Our own Bob Hoffman hosted the event in behalf of the Springfield President.

After a day at sea we stopped at Quebec City, where we became immersed in a truly foreign environment. Sadly, the next day we had to disembark and to contemplate returning to the real world. In Montreal our cruisers went in many directions. Some flew home, some (like our New England Scene Editors) stayed on in Montreal. Some even took the train across Canada to return to the west coast and some of us bussed back to Boston. Thus ended a week long adventure which had engaged the Co-Chairs for four years.



*Our special thanks go to Chuck and Nancy Goding for their work planning the Harbor to Harbour Cruise. Their careful planning and attention to detail made the cruise go smoothly for all of us. We had a most pleasurable and carefree experience thanks to their effort and that of their committee.*

### **NAFYR Website**

Have you looked at the National NAFYR website recently? It was developed by David Bast, our NAFYR webmaster, and keeps us updated on NAFYR business and events. Our website is NAFYR.org. Recently the website opened a web store for NAFYR shirt purchases. The website has newsletters from all Chapters that submit them plus other good information.

### **New England Chapter Executive Committee 2008-2010**

- Co-Presidents .....Len & Ann Cuneo
- Co-Vice Presidents & Program
- Committee Chairs .....Nancy & Bob Fitzgerald
- Co-Secretaries .....Sy Symonds & Ellie Murphy
- Treasurer .....Allen Beavers
- Membership Co-Chairs .....Lou & Mary Falk
- Newsletter Co-Editors .....Greg & Ellen Fairbend
- Immediate Past Co-Presidents &
- Nominating Committee Co-Chairs .....  
Andy & Barb Anderson
- Member Needs & Cares Co-Chairs .....  
Cliff & Judy Moss
- Service Co-Chairs .....Bob & Nancy Hoffman
- At Large .....Chuck & Nancy Goding
- At Large .....Skip & Natalie Raymond
- At Large .....Jane Kirk

## **New England Scene**

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Rhode Island Red, Rhode Island State Bird