



# OGN

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## Jerusalem International Y gets good press

*Len Wilson has been director general of the Jerusalem International YMCA for 18 months. In one of her periodic e-mail reports, his wife, Joyce, sent an article published in the newspaper, Ha'aratz, April 11. It is based on an interview with Len. Editor. This is a summary of the article. Editor.*

Len compared the challenges he faces to the movie, *The Perfect Storm*, a dramatic film about a rare convergence of factors that creates an unusually violent tempest. He faces the effects of the violence in the area, a poor economy, and an ambitious construction project.

The building, often referred to as the most beautiful in the city, was designed by Arthur Loomis Harmon, the architect of the Empire State Building. It is described by the author of the article, Annette Young, as one of the city's best-known landmarks.

The Y attracts some 500,000 visitors a year, according to the article.

Retirees who heard Rizek Abusharr, Len's predecessor, speak at Reunion 2000 will probably recall his description of the diverse constituency of the association, which is owned by the YMCA of the

USA. It is one of the rare places in the area where Jews, Arabs and Christians can come together in peace. The article refers to young leadership programs in which about 150 Arab and Jewish teenagers participate.

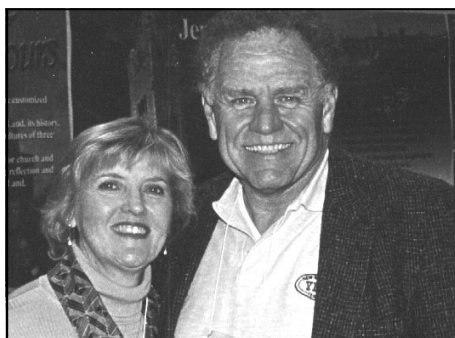
The Y's youth director, Robert Karram, is quoted as saying that many Arab kids seldom encounter Jews other than police or soldiers, but at the YMCA, they meet Israelis their own age.

Len expanded, pointing out to the reporter that the staff is a mixture of Arabs, Christians and Jews.

The International YMCA is in the midst of an addition

to the facility, which will house a new recreation and sports center. The completion date of the project is sometime in 2006.

The Jerusalem YMCA is one of the projects included in NAFYR's World Service campaign.



**Joyce and Len Wilson have been in Jerusalem for 18 months.**

## World Brotherhood Campaign separate from World Service

Retirees will be receiving a mailing this month inviting them to make a pledge to the World Brotherhood Campaign. The campaign was initiated by NAFYR to build an endowment to provide emergency assistance to YMCA retirees in developing nations.

This should not be confused with the annual World Service Campaign, which is already under way, notes NAFYR President Stew Brown. The Brotherhood Fund is a one-time contribution or a pledge that can be paid at one time or spread over five years. Retirees can elect to be billed annually or have a specific amount deducted from their retirement checks. Support of both is important, says Stew.

As of the end of April, the Brotherhood Fund has received 95 pledges totaling \$114,390 toward the \$1 million goal.

**Next month's OGN will be edited by Associate Editor Clark Koechel. Late-breaking news should be sent to him no later than June 5 to be included in the July issue. Clark can take it by telephone at (920) 922-9139, fax at (920) 922-2851 or by e-mail at Cjk1@execpc.com.**

### NAFYR MISSION

The mission of the North American Fellowship of YMCA Retirees is to enable members to promote a nurturing, worldwide Christian fellowship that provides educational, social and charitable opportunities.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



## STEW BROWN

As I visit with folks at chapter meetings or during reunions, we often get into a discussion on volunteering. I can't believe the number and variety of activities our NAFYR members are involved with on a volunteer basis. **We are one of the strengths of this country.**

I'd like for you to do a favor for me. I want to do an article on YMCA retirees and volunteering, first for you folks, then to any magazine that will print it. I'll try a variety of magazines that might be interested. I think we should all pat ourselves on the back and take a little credit for all we do.

So, would you take a moment to list the volunteer activities in which you are involved and the number of hours you contribute each month to it. Put it on a post card, note paper, or on the back of your *OGN* mailing envelope. Send it by mail, e-mail, or FAX. You have all those addresses for me on page 4 in this issue of the newsletter. If you have a photo of yourself involved in the volunteer activity, include it, and perhaps it can be used in the article.

And, do it this week so I can report back to you as my term as your president comes to a close this fall.

**THANKS!**

## WE REMEMBER



**the following colleagues whose devotion and faith enabled them to serve well and have now passed to life after life.**

**David G. Baumgardner**, 65, 3/14/03. Spouse: Sherry Baumgardner, 638 Gordon Rd., Naples, FL 34108

**Clark E. Dobbins**, 86, 3/12/03. Spouse: Lavina Dobbins, 2351 Solomon Ave., Apt. 227, Billings, MT 59102

**Richard D. Frank**, 66, 3/10/03. Spouse: Susan Frank, 6720 White Post Rd., Centreville, VA 20121.

**James G. Hadcock**, 89, 1/20/03. Children: c/o Candace Bealer, 1102 8th Ave, Sterling, IL 61081.

**Earle J. Smith** 77, 4/6/03. Spouse: Phyllis Smith, 597-B Sioux Lane, Stratford, CT 06497.

**Norman F. Van Gulden**, 81, 3/29/03. Spouse: Nancy Van Gulden, 217 Stone Hill Rd., Williston, VT 05495

**Kenneth R. Werner**, 69, 3/16/03. Spouse: Marilyn Werner, 784 Fox Hunt Trail, Deerfield, IL 60015.

**Chester Gerald Wood**, 87, 4/3/03. Daughter: Anne Schelling, 911 E. Derby Dr., Tempe, AZ 85284.

## Widows

**Jean M. (Mrs. James W.) Hall**, Enfield, Conn.

**Martha C. (Mrs. Richard W.) MacMorran**,  
Hoquiam,

Wash.

**Helen P. (Mrs. Ollie) Murphy**, Knoxville, Tenn.

**Carlotta L. (Mrs. James M.) Orr**, Bloomfield, Conn.

**Muriel (Mrs. Richard) Sweitzer**, Oak Park, Ill.

**Dorothy B. (Mrs. Walter) Vanderbush**, Franklin, Ind.

## OGN REGRETS

*OGN* strives for accuracy though occasional errors appear. In the May issue Mary Ann Bednarke's city was incorrectly listed. She lives in Oak Park, Illinois ("Just Among Friends"). More than one reader pointed out that the Battle of the Bulge occurred in 1944 (Bastogne locals grateful to Ameri-

cans"). In the chapter news feature, the Asilomar Conference was a function of the McCoy Chapter; additionally, the May 12 Cluster meeting at the Ortmeyers was also the McCoy Chapter.

The 53rd anniversary of Phyllis Hartley and George Brening on April 21 was inadvertently omitted.

*OGN* regrets the errors.

## FROM THE CHAPTERS

### Grand Canyon meets for baseball

The Grand Canyon Chapter met in style April 29, assembling in the VIP sky box for a Diamondbacks baseball game. The fact that the home team lost did not diminish the fun for the 48 members and guests. Traditional ball park food was served but not in the traditional manner. The Brotherhood Fund was discussed, and the chapter was invited to join with the Weidensall Chapter at Estes Park in September. *Reported by Peg Andrews.*

### Upper Midwest checks out Spam

Upper Midwest Chapter members met in Austin, Minn., April 30 and viewed 16,500 square feet of Spam Nirvana as they toured the Spam Museum of the George A. Hormel Co. Austin is the home of the Hormel Co., where the famous product was invented and made during World War II for the U.S. armed forces as well as the home front. The museum exhibits the product's storied history and memorabilia, including present day production and worldwide distribution with movies, mechanical displays and other visual aids. Following the tour, chapter members visited the Austin YMCA, where Executive Director Mark Bjorlie explained that the Hormel Co. underwrites memberships for Austin area youth through high school with a \$170,000 annual grant from the Hormel Foundation. It is the only Y in Minnesota with indoor tennis courts. The meeting concluded with lunch at the Austin Country Club. President John Traver reported six chapter members participated in a World Service telephone campaign that resulted in \$51,540, with more to come. Callers were Ken Landro, Pency Eliou, Dick Silverness, Dick Sisler, Skip Wilke and Paul Gausmann. There were 37 members attending. *Reported by Chuck Holmes.*

### McBurney-Morse elects officers

Bob and Louise Pilgrim of Brooklyn were elected co-presidents of the McBurney-Morse Chapter at the March meeting. They succeed Tatsuo and Emiko Honma. Other officers are: Eleanor Collier, secretary, and Tom Collier, treasurer. Paul Sharar will be newsletter editor. *Reported by Paul Sharar.*

### Willis elects new leaders

The Willis Chapter has elected Bob and Janet Ferguson co-presidents. Frank and Jan Mark will be vice presidents. Other officers are: Pat and Ed Frazier, co-secretaries; Don and Margie Dome, co-treasurers. Carl Gaites has succeeded Don Dome as newsletter editor. At the March chapter meeting Don, who had been editor since 1994, was presented with a certificate. In addition, a surprise tribute of congratulatory letters by chapter members was surreptitiously inserted into the March newsletter. The officers met in Lakeland, Florida, to discuss plans for the new program year. *Reported by Bob and Janet Ferguson.*

### Annual Shakespeare event draws 43

The 13th annual Shakespeare Experience, a joint event of the McCoy and Allen-Stone Chapters, attracted 43 members and guests April 8-11. Fellowship was the key to the tremendous success of the four-day event, closely followed by culture with the viewing of three plays. The group enjoyed *Present Laugh-*

## CHAPTER CALENDAR

**Copeland-Budge (Canada)** Ivan Eaton (905) 468-0028  
May 8, North York YMCA, Toronto

**Hoosier-Buell** Don/Ramona Stetson (765) 282-4647  
May 13-14, Spring Meeting, Archibald, Ohio

**Messer Ken/Alta Thiel** (847) 272-2553  
June 6 Annual Meeting, Oakbrook, Illinois

*ter, Romeo and Juliet, and a new play, Daughters of the Revolution.* Some took a tour of the New Theater, the Bowmar and the outdoor Festival Theatre. Two banquets were held. One included a Fun Night in which everyone took new silly names, sang camp songs and played Dub's bridge, an easy takeoff of bridge and a good mixer. A quilt made by Karen Nutter was auctioned, bringing in \$900 for the World Brotherhood Campaign. For the next two years, the Shakespeare Experience will be under the leadership of Bill and Ruth Heathman of the Allen-Stone Chapter. *Reported by Hal and Betty Gibbs.*

### Greater Ozark members see country show

Thirty-seven people attended the Greater Ozark Chapter meeting April 22-24 in Kimberling City, Mo. Taking advantage of their location, they attended "The Country Tonight Show" in nearby Branson. They also heard a report from Rich Hill on the U.S. YMCA Retirement Fund and from Bill Ching regarding current trends in the local and national YMCA. New officers installed by Dick Stoll are: Dick and Naomi Hundley, co-presidents; Dave Snow, vice president; Bobbie Johnson, secretary; Ben Uyesato, treasurer; and Naomi Hundley, newsletter editor. In a new program feature designed to let members share personal interests, Phil Hellwege, an active volunteer with the Transportation Museum in St. Louis, presented a program about the institution, one of the best museums of its kind in the country. A silent auction planned and conducted by Doris Hawkins and Betsy Stoll brought in \$501 to support the work of the Emergency Assistance Fund and *Secours Speciaux*. Several "wannabe" comedians participated in a joke-telling session led by Bruce Wands, and Jackie Uyesato did her usual great job leading singing. Dick Hundley gave a morning devotional, and a moving memorial service for departed chapter members was led by Dick Stoll, Mary Reid and Harland Johnson. *Reported by Dick Hundley.*

### Marston Chapter visits Tijuana

A delightful day was in store for the 17 members and four guests who left Mission Valley in four vans to visit the Chapter's sister YMCA in Tijuana, Mexico. Greeted by Oscar Escalada, secretary general of the Mexican Federation of YMCAs, members unloaded donations of towels, soap, shampoo and T-shirts. Oscar showed a video describing the work of the association. The Migrant House, started in 1990, is providing a safe ha-

Continued on page 5



## GOLDEN TREASURES



### *Married 67 Years*

Mary and Erwin Tews, Downs, Ill. - June 6  
Gladys and Wilfred Pearson, Chelmsford, Mass. - June 29

### *Married 64 Years*

Ruth and Jack Howell, Amherst, Mass. - June 3

### *Married 63 Years*

Arline and Harold Ward, Ft. Myers, Fla. - June 16

### *Married 62 Years*

Jeannette and Chuck Chapman, Claremont, Calif - June 9

### *Married 61 Years*

Mary and Ed Torrence, Black Mountain, N.C. - June 6  
Dorothy and Everett Miller, Everett, Wash. - June 27

### *Married 60 Years*

Doris and Daniel Kitchen, Westfield, Mass. - June 23

### *Married 59 Years*

Mae and Jim Kinsman, Catonsville, Md. - June 2  
Marie and Bob Looby, Bloomfield, N.J. - June 24  
Theda and Joseph Thompson, Sunbury, Pa. - June 25

### *Married 58 Years*

Dee and Frank Kiehne, Reading, Pa. - June 17  
Mary Lou and Ray Overmire, Waverly, Ohio - June 27

### *Married 57 Years*

Mary and Murray Shantz, Unionville, Ont. - June 1  
Joanne and Bill Bartley, Wichita Falls, Tex. - June 7  
Marjorie and Joe Blair, Columbus, Ohio - June 15  
Liz and Ed Ewen, Williamsburg, Va. - June 15  
Carolyn and Dick Overmeyer, Davis, Calif. - June 15  
Genevieve and Vern Hathaway, Lacey, Wash. - June 16  
Elizabeth and George Garniss, Issaquah, Wash. - June 22  
Helen and John McCaslin, Renfrew, Pa. - June 28

### *Married 56 Years*

Dorothy and Don Warrington, Blanco, Tex. - June 20  
Connie and Dan Norte, Cortland, N. Y. - June 21  
Ebbie and Joe Tharpe, Florissant, Mo. - June 21  
Harriett and Bill Larkin, Greenville, Mich. - June 22  
Pinky and Dave Hughes, Tempe, Ariz. - June 28  
Mary and Neal Schreiner, Longview, Tex. - June 28

## OGN

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*GOLDEN TREASURES*

*Married 55 Years*

- Jean and Andy Brethauer, Columbus, Ohio - June 6
- Virginia and Harold Buckner, Beaver Dam, Ariz. - June 6
- Doris and Ted Hawkins, St. Louis, Mo. - June 12
- Jay and LaForest Smith, Eastham, Mass. - June 12
- Mary and Sam Chollar, Rochester, Minn. - June 13
- Helen and Bill Georges, Dover, Del. - June 13
- Camilla and Kenneth Munson, Seattle, Wash. - June 13
- Jean and Sam Edgar, Ballwin, Mo. - June 19
- Jane and Hal Wright, Simsbury, Conn. - June 19
- Carol and Dick Sisler, Minneapolis, Minn. - June 25
- Marion and John Malinowski, South Amboy, N. J. - June 26
- Gloria and Nicholas Patinos, Wheaton, Ill. - June 27

*Married 54 Years*

- 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
- Norma and Keith Latter, Woodstock, Ont. - June 18
- Beulah and Bob Stecker, Bettendorf, Iowa - June 19

*Married 53 Years*

- Carolyn and Vernon Bradley, Peace Dale, R. I. - June 3
- Barb and Bob Schmidt, San Diego, Calif. - June 11
- Shirley and Charles Pead, Bradenton, Fla. - June 17
- Marion and Al Grasso, Asheville, N. C. - June 24

*Married 52 Years*

- Faye and Glen Weaner, Duncanville, Tex. - June 2
- Marilyn and Chuck Wise, Menomonee Falls, 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
- June and Dick Gingery, Sun City Center, Fla. - June 24

*Married 51 Years*

- Gini and Dave Potts, Haddonfield, N. J. - June 7
- Barbara and Bob Miller, Columbus, Ohio - June 8
- Stella and Phil Thorn, Okmulgee, Okla. - June 9
- Margie and Don Dome, Bradenton, Fla. - June 14
- Joan and Walt Jacoby, Penney Farms, Fla. - June 14
- Ginny and Gord Ramsay, Markam, Ont. - June 14
- Betsy and Dick Stoll, Kirkwood, Mo. - June 14
- Bernie and Bill Taylor, Watertown, N. Y. - June 14

*Married 50 Years*

- Dona and Cliff Lothery, Mount Prospect, Ill. - June 6



**We welcome the following members into the fellowship of YMCA retirees, linked together by our common heritage and our service to humanity.**

**Beverly Zaumeyer (Spouse: Rodger)**, aq ex inst, YMCA, Hollywood, Fla. 1350 River Reach Dr. #405, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315.

**Marilyn Wotton**, VP, YMCA, Los Angeles, Calif. 4021 W. 73rd Terrace, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

**Phyllis Glunt (Thomas)**, adm asst, YMCA, Elyria, Ohio. 459 Metcalf Rd. Elyria, OH 44035

**Fran Mulligan (Tom)**, adm asst, YMCA, Kansas City, Kans. 8005 Halsey, Lenexa, KS 66215.

**David Dougherty (Barbara)**, CEO, YMCA, Nashua-Merrimak, N. H. 17945 SE Oak Leaf Terr., The Villages, FL 32162.

**Continued from page 3**

ven for youth age 11-17 who have been deported by the U.S for attempting to enter the country illegally. The mission of the House is to contribute to the wholesome development of spirit, mind and body of the migrant youth along the Mexican-U.S. border. The program strives to unite them with their families and seeks the greatest possible protection of their human rights. It provides them with a secure, healthy refuge where food, clothing, shelter and a means of communication are provided. There are now four of the *casas* (homes) along the border. Casa YMCAs do not only help change lives, they help save them! The group toured the YMCA Sports Center, called Tijuana 2000. The Y provides the community with sports, recreational, social and cultural activities. At a local restaurant, the members were treated to a *Pollo Mole*, a meal usually served at weddings and other special occasions. Oscar continued with an update of the Mexican YMCA Federation. In a business session, it was reported that 13 Marston members had pledged \$7605 to the World Brotherhood Campaign. A new member, Nancy Earp, attended her first meeting. Two couples from the Palomar Y's Men's Club who were instrumental in the early development of the YMCA buildings in Tijuana YMCA also joined in the event. *Reported by Barb Schmidt.*

## Army life—1948-1953

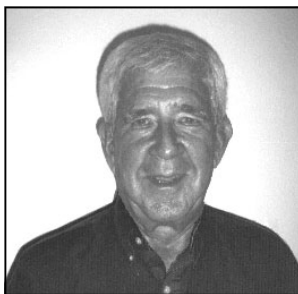
**M**y military experience was different from most of those printed in recent issues of *OGN*. Missing World War II by about a year, I still had to register for the draft upon reaching 18 years of age.

**YMCA MEN IN WAR** During my senior year in college, I joined the National Guard in order to graduate. I was assigned to the survey section, which was made up of one other enlisted man and an officer.

I found out that in the Guard, survey section was a euphemism for artillery forward observer.

I was inducted into the regular army in October 1951 and sent to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, for basic training. Being in artillery, I had the typical eight-week basic and also an additional eight weeks for artillery training. The discipline was strict. But, by keeping my nose clean, I never had to “get down and give 25 (pushups),” do extra KP or dig a six-by-six, which was digging a hole of six cubic feet for the sergeant to flip his cigarette in and fill the hole up.

My most vivid memory of basic training was the graduation at the end. A sergeant began to call off names to isolate a group of about 50, including me. Our sixteen weeks of training had not been racially segregated. On this day the group in which I was placed was exclusively white. The larger group was marched off, and we were told they were going to Korea, and we were going to England. I still remember the relief that I was going to a combat-free zone but also embarrassment



**Jim Bailey retired from the YMCA in 1991 and is a management and financial consultant to religious and non-profit groups.**

of my skin.

In England, we were stationed at a staging area for a large number of Strategic Air Command bases. We were to be the gunners to protect the base and the planes. Our first problem was that our training had been on 105 and 155 howitzers. Now, our guns were WWII vintage 50 mm antiaircraft and 50 caliber quad mount machine guns. The second problem was that an antiaircraft gun has to “lead” the airplane it is trying to hit. The guns we had were hand-crank, gear-operated mechanisms which could follow a prop-driven plane but not a jet. Thank goodness we were never tested in battle.

Included in my training was a week in Germany with a group of German officers. The Germans could not organize an army under the occupation, but a labor group was necessary and the German Labor Force was created. It was a little weird attending classes with men who

and shame that a lot of men I had grown to know and trust were headed into danger which I had avoided only by the color

had been our enemies just four years previously.

As part of our training, we were to have a mock invasion of the base by British paratroopers. We knew the week but not the specific time. My wife, Barbara, who had joined me, and I went to a movie on the base to see Marilyn Monroe in *Niagara*. The alarm sounded just as Marilyn was walking under the falls in a yellow slicker. The movie was shut off as all military personnel had to go immediately to their assigned station. We didn't see the rest of the movie for at least 25 years.



**Jim was assigned to an artillery base in England during the Korean War.**

Near the end of my tour of duty, President Truman issued the famous order integrating the services. We got a number of black troops, including a second lieutenant, much to the consternation of some of the old-line noncoms.

Looking back some 50 years later, I guess it wasn't so bad. I can point to learning and good behavior which resulted from the time spent in Uncle Sam's fighting forces.

### NAFYR E-MAIL DIRECTORY



#### New

David/Barbara Dougherty, The Villages, Fla.

Fran/Tom Mulligan, Lenexa, Kans.

Bill/Joann Phillips, Hendersonville, N.C.

Marilyn Wotton, Prairie Village, Kans.

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