NORTH AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP OF YMCA RETIREES

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OGN

Reunion will close with energetic evangelist

Michael Ovikian, the Reunion 2005 Sunday morning speaker, says, "God has saved this child again."

From a terrorist bombing at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, where he worked as a young adult, to by-pass heart surgery and cancer, the energetic 75-year-old has survived it all—and done it all—as a globetrotter for God. And, he's not done yet.

Michael Ovikian will speak at the closing session.

Ovikian, an Armenian, was born, grew up and was educated in Jerusalem. All of his ancestors who lived in Turkey, except his mother, were among the more than one-and-a-half million persons killed in the Armenian massacre.

He was raised Roman Catholic and, as a youth, was an active member of the Jerusalem YMCA. He is an evangelical Christian who speaks nine languages. That linguistic proficiency landed him a job with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, where he was employed for more than 40 years. He was director of Billy Graham's Latin American ministries in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1967 until 1974 when he came to Graham's Minneapolis headquarters. There, he staffed schools of evangelism and marketed Worldwide Picture films to thousands of churches and theaters.

In retirement, Ovikian serves as promotion, marketing and hospitality director for Mount Carmel Ministries family camp in Alexandria, Minnesota. He regularly leads tour groups to Israel, Jordan, Greece, Italy, Egypt and Turkey.

He is married and has five grown children and three grandchildren. Ovikian works out two-and-a-half hours every morning at the Minneapolis YMCA's Southdale Branch.▼

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The decade of the1960s was a watershed for America and for the YMCA. On page 5 you'll find an article, the first in a new series called "The Fight for Freedom," written by Tom Hargrave. The series will highlight personal stories of YMCA staff during the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. If you are interested in contributing an article, contact the editor.

REGISTRATION WATCH

Reunion co-registrars Jo and Hank Bagelmann report there were 77 persons registered for Reunion 2005 as of April 2. They have processed $16,204.

Six persons have registered for golf, but tennis seems to be too strenuous for Y retirees, as no one has registered.

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.

YMCA Canada to hold AGM May 27-29

The Annual General Meeting of YMCA Canada will be held May 27-29 at Geneva Park. The event will celebrate successes, tap into and examine research on support systems and explore future steps in community building, according to the by-monthly bulletin issued by the national office. The theme is "Growing Strong Together: Unique YMCA Perspectives to Building Strong Communities."

Michael Weil is the national executive of YMCA Canada.

Among the presenters will be James Gomez, whom some retirees attending Reunion 2003 will remember from his presentation aboard the cruise ship. James is executive secretary of the Africa Alliance of YMCAs. He will discuss the YMCA perspective to building strong communities on that continent.

Another highlight speaker, Dr. Clyde Hertzman, is a professor at the University of British Columbia and director of the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research. Known for his research in early child development mapping in B.C. neighborhoods, Dr. Hertzman will speak on community mapping and perspectives on support systems. By mapping information by neighborhood, researchers can better understand how various factors influence children's development and health. Policy makers and community members can use the information to develop effective policies and programs to help children get the best possible start in life.

Workshop sessions on community building will examine municipal partnerships, diversity, community partnerships, advocacy and methods of influencing strategies.

There will also be updates on the YMCA Strong Association Profile.

The customary YMCA Retirement Banquet will be held on the last evening of the event and will be followed by a night of socializing and dancing.

Canadian YMCA retirees who are interested in attending should contact Silvana Anania at the national office. Her e-mail address is silvana_anania@ymca.ca and telephone number is 416-967-9622.▼

FROM THE PRESIDENT

PHIL WORTMAN

This month's president's message is written by NAFYR Vice President (East) Phil Wortman.

Membership! That's the core of our existence as an organization. That's why the Willis Chapter made the proposal to use $10,000 of the surplus from the NAFYR Reunion 2003 to initiate a membership marketing plan.

The initial plan called for the employment of an administrator to work 10-15 hours a week to mail the president's initial letters and brochures and to follow up with a telephone contact with each new retiree, providing them with information on NAFYR, including chapter activities.

The expected outcomes included addressing the old peoples image, increased organizational awareness, membership increase and concerns/reasons for not joining.

The mailing of the president's letter took a significant burden off the president. However, during the first eight months of 2004, the phone call effort had very little positive results, as only 45 contacts were made from 247 calls. People just were not home.

Due to the relatively small number of successful telephone contacts, the program was revised to make only one call attempt rather than the previous plan of three attempts. Instead, a four-part progressive mailing plan was initiated with separate pieces designed for each mailing. The first was a "sorry we missed you" card followed by three additional promotional mailings at two-month intervals.

Through January of 2005 there have been 509 president's letters mailed, 296 successful telephone contacts, 203 cards mailed, 143 first promotional materials mailed and 99 second promotional mailings.

The revised plan seems to be producing better results; however, membership continues to be a critical issue. Have you sent your contribution for this year?

FROM THE CHAPTERS

Marston checks out art

The Marston Chapter (San Diego area) held a meeting March 17 in beautiful Balboa Park. Following lunch, the group walked next door to the Timken Museum of Art, which houses the world-class Putnam Foundation Collection of European old master paintings, American works and Russian icons. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent touring the museum with a very personable, knowledgeable docent. The afternoon concluded after President Jorge Candon conducted a brief business meeting which included a plea from Bill Scofield for funds for tsunami relief, a financial report by Co-Treasurers Ilene and Don Davis, and an announcement from Bea Halk about the July 28 meeting for the annual picnic and the play, *The Music Man*. Twenty-one persons attended. *Reported by Barb Schmidt*.

Willis Chapter visits big Florida Lake

The Willis Chapter (Florida except the panhandle) had an exciting overnight meeting at Lake Okeechobee March 11-12. The 21 attendees met at the home of Betty Burton, where some members spent the afternoon trying to relieve the lake of some of its fish. Others went sight-seeing on Bill Schenk's boat. The group enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal of steak, corn-on-the-cob, swamp cabbage, salad and potatoes, with plenty of desserts to sample. A short meeting followed dinner, in which Past President Phil Wortman presented a slate of officers. The following were elected: Jan and Frank Marks, co-presidents; Betty Burton, vice president; Pat Frazier, secretary; and Don and Margie Dome, co-treasurers. They will hold office for two years. Carl Gaites will continue as editor of the "Sandpaper," the chapter's newsletter. The following day, the group took in the Okeechobee Speckled Perch Parade and enjoyed the crafts and food

Continued on page 4

CHAPTER CALENDAR

ALLEN-STONE Kay/Darwin Haines 850/235-2592
dkhaines@centurytel.net
May 19, Spring meeting, Puyallup, Wash.

CHAMBERS Dave Saunders
dvbksaunders@netzero.net
May 10-12, Board and chapter meeting, Zanesville, Ohio

COPELAND-BUDGE Jack Bernhardt 613/342-2212
camplaren@ripnet.com
May 10, Chapter meeting, Burlington, Ont.
May 18, Ottawa Cluster, Ottawa, Ont.

ELLENWOOD George Davenport 315/682-1771
georgeod@yahoo.com
May 19-20, Chapter meeting, Rochester, N.Y.

HOOSIER-BUELL Don Stetson 765/282-4647
drstetson@hotmail.com
May 19-20, Chapter meeting, Shipshewana, Ind.

LYON Harry/Marilyn Brunger 909/624-6774
Hbrunger@aol.com
May 17-18, Chapter meeting, Temecula, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND Chuck/Nancy Goding 860/568-0846
CGo4959762@aol.com
May 23-25, Chapter meeting, West Dennis, Mass.

WEATHERFORD Doug/Jean McNeel 770/928-3304
DJMcNeel@comcast.net
May 3-5, Spring Fling, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

WEIDENSALL Bill/Vaada Ellisor 303/973-1091
VaadaBill@msn.com
May 19, Spring meeting, Colorado Springs, Colo.

MEMO

To: Chapter Presidents
From: Editor, *OGN*
Date: Right Now
Subject: Event Reports

Don't forget to have someone send a report of your chapter events to the editor. Contact information on page 5.

Continued from page 3
associated with it. Closing the event was the famous Okeechobee Rodeo, which everyone enjoyed, some seeing their first one. *Reported by Pat Frazier.*

29 attend Central Atlantic meeting

Twenty-five members and four guests attended the February 23 meeting of the Central Atlantic Chapter (eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, eastern Maryland, Washington, D.C.) at Lancaster, Pa. Jeff Kinderline, executive director of the Lancaster YMCA, brought greetings from his association. U.S. YMCA Retirement Fund President John Preis brought his very thorough Power Point presentation to the chapter and discussed the long-range and immediate goals of the Fund. The chapter now has a membership of 140 persons, its highest total ever.

McBurney-Morse elects officers

Bob Soong of Fanwood, New Jersey, has been elected president of the McBurney-Morse Chapter (New York City, northern New Jersey, Long Island, Lower Hudson Counties, Fairfield County, Connecticut). Eleanor and Tom Collier, Lakewood, New Jersey, were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. Paul Sharar, Glen Rock, New Jersey, is editor of the newsletter.

WE REMEMBER

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

Jeannette Lewis, 84, 3/15/05. Spouse: Myron Lewis, 15925 Wild Holly Lane, Poway, CA 92064.

James Fruit, 7/22/04. Spouse: Marcia Fruit, 3621 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Richard Floyd, 76, 11/6/04. Spouse: Lenore Floyd, 29470 W. Woodall Rd., Solon, OH 44139.

Nya Janette Cleveland, 61, 2/2/05. Sibling: Lynell Colon, 9816 Sucia Circle, Parrish. FL 34219.

Leland W. Johnson, 80, 2/4/05. Spouse: Mary Ellen Johnson, 208 Lyndale Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

Robert M. McIntosh, 70, 2/19/05. Spouse: Agnes McIntosh, 3172 V.Z.C.R. 2316, Eustace, TX 75124.

William Tumblin, 87, 12/29/04. Spouse: Jean Tumblin, 2520 Interstate 10 East #19, Beaumont, TX 77703.

Robert C. Wartinbee, 75, 12/22/04. Son: Craig Wartinbee, 1120B Blackhawk Dr. #13, Elgin, IL 60120.

Joanne Q. Werner, 71, 10/20/04. Daughters: c/o Paula Virshek, 25975 Boulder Ridge Dr., Hassan, MN 55374.

Steven Zaman, 62, 2/21/05. Spouse: Marilyn Zaman, 210 Lexington Cir., Broadview Heights, OH 44147.

Norma Crewdson, 1/9/05. Spouse: Don Crewdson, Indigo Pines, 110 Gardner Drive # 105, Hilton Head, S.C. 29926.

David H. Munday, 76, 2/1/05. Spouse: Lois Munday, 24 Sparwell Lane, Brunswick, ME 04011.

NAFYR E-MAIL DIRECTORY

The following e-mail address changes have been added to the NAFYR e-mail directory.

Fred/Doris Cords, Oceanside, Calif.	**dorfrecor@nethere.com**
Don Zerwer, Lincoln, Calif.	**dzerwer@sbcglobal.net**

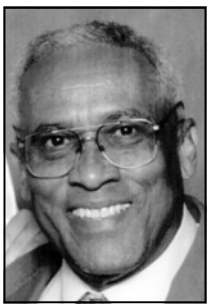
First of a Series

WHAT MANNER OF MAN

By Tom Hargrave, Jr., Silver Spring, Maryland

This is an excerpt of an address given by Tom Hargrave, president emeritus of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., at the New York Avenue Presbyterian in September 2004 and this past January at the Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

In 1955 my family and I saw the first television images of the momentous events taking place in Montgomery, Alabama. We were inspired by the words of a young minister telling the people not to get weary, but to keep on walking for freedom. I wondered *what manner of man is this?*



Tom Hargrave retired in 1992. He was inducted into the YMCA Hall of Fame in 2001.

In June 1956, I accepted a position on the Southern Region staff and was assigned to work with YMCAs in black colleges and any others in which I was permitted.

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

The first invitation I received was from the Student YMCA at segregated Alabama State College in Montgomery. Riding through the city, I witnessed the empty buses and black people walking to their jobs. Ahead of us, police stopped a car that had picked up several elderly women. The students told me the driver would be given a heavy fine for his act of kindness. That evening, the students took me to the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where Dr. King was listed as the last speaker. He rose and spoke quietly to the hushed congregation. "I know you get weary, children," he said. Loud applause erupted. "We're gonna keep on walking because freedom is not given, it is won by a struggle."

Following the service, the students introduced me to Dr. King. He asked me for my assessment of how the boycott, as shown on television, was being viewed. I told him people were inspired by it. He invited us to come to his home for further discussion. On our arrival at 10:20 p.m., the house was lit up with floodlights. The students reminded me the Klan had attempted to bomb the house the previous week. Black men, armed only with Bibles, stood outside. I must confess I was nervous as we entered the crowded living room. As Dr. King sat on the floor among us, he began speaking of the power of non-violence. My fears began to subside as I sensed a Presence in that room I had never experienced before.

In 1960 I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to develop a YMCA branch to serve the black community. I joined the NAACP, and the chapter began negotiating to end segregation throughout the city. When negotiations failed, volunteers began peacefully picketing stores. On a July day, police stood by as Klansmen unloaded ax handles in Hyman Park, located in the business district. The Klansmen attacked the pickets and left several injured. As word of the incident spread, militant young black men stormed into the center of town to confront the Klan. The NAACP had trained its volunteers for direct action but had not anticipated the reaction of the youth who challenged the Klan. Three days later, several persons were dead and businesses were disrupted and damaged.

In 1964 I became assistant general secretary of the YMCA in Pasadena, California. With my wife and four children we decided to drive to California, testing the new public accommodation laws. We stopped at a motel near Mobile, Alabama. Bracing myself, I registered and was pleasantly surprised to be given keys to a

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OGN,a messenger of human interest and Christian fellowship, is sent to all members of NAFYR; no subscription fee is required of members. OGN subscription isavail-able to others for $12.00 per year, payable to the treasurer.

WE WELCOME

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

Richard Daniels (spouse: Val), mech spvsr, YMCA, Pottstown, Pa. 364 N. York St., Pottstown, PA 19464. E-mail: vtluvrt@msn.com

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Doris Tomita, ex VP, Honolulu. 46-150 Heeia St., Kaneohe, HI 96744.

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Bart Miller (Barbara), CEO, YMCA, Tyler, Tex. 916 Lebanon Rd., Pendleton, S.C. E-mail: miller7965@bellsouth.net.

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Randy Rabenstein (Lynn), ex dir, YMCA, Mt. Vernon, Wash. 201 No. Section St., Burlington, WA 98233. E-mail: rgr@mwlink.com.

Mike Reber (Linda), ex dir, ASYMCA, San Diego. 4542 Villas Dr., Bonita, CA 91902. E-mail: reebs@cox.net.

Steven Oswald, mbrshp dir, YMCA, New York City. 665 88th St., # D3, Brooklyn, NY 11228.

Anca Schapira (Sergiu), head tchr, YMCA, Nyak, N.Y. P. O. Box 1812, Greenwood Lake, NY 10925.

Continued from page 5

room. In the coffee shop the next morning, the white waitress refused to take our order. After 20 minutes, the manager of the hotel took our order and personally served us. As we were packing to leave, a small black housekeeper knocked at our door and told us we were the first black family to stay at the motel. Then she smiled and said, "The cooks told the manager if we were not served, they would not cook for anyone." Turning to leave, she paused and said, "And that 'out of order' sign on the swimming pool is gonna be gone the minute you folks leave."▼

NEXT MONTH: "A LAMP UNTO MY FEET"

A BIG ENTERPRISE

We all know the YMCA Retirement Fund is a big operation. But the activity volume might surprise you. Here are the transactions Fund President John Preis oversees in a typical year:

- 12,500 enrollments
- 10,000 terminations
- 6000 refunds
- 600 retirements
- 400 deaths
- 30 divorces
- 60,000 customer phone calls
- 260,000 website visits
- 30,000 new documents added to the 2.8 million base
- 4 million total transactions

Clarification of *Perspective* offer

Kate Corbett, membership coordinator of the Association of YMCA Professionals (AYP) in the USA, has clarified a statement in the March *OGN* regarding the one-year complimentary subscription to *Perspective* magazine. The subscription is not automatic. Recent retirees who are active AYP members at their retirement can receive the subscription. Interested persons should e-mail Kate at kate@aypymca.org or call her at (401) 604-0034.

JUST AMONG FRIENDS - NEWS ABOUT US

Allen-Stone Co-Presidents **Don** and **Joyce Leak**, Camano Island, Washington, took a ten-week class on the geology of the North American continent at the local senior center. The class was under the auspices of Skagit Valley College.

Peter and **Norma Gabel**, Denver, Colorado, have been volunteer ushers at the University of Denver's Newman Center for the Performing Arts, giving them opportunities for great musical and speaking performances.

Past NAFYR President **Scotty Washburn**, Salem, Oregon, is chair of the Salem YMCA's endowment committee.

Al Dale, Bellingham, Washington, participated in Pastor's for Peace Caravan of aid to the Maya people in Chiapas, Mexico. After gathering materials from churches between Bellingham and Texas, the group spent ten days visiting villages and learning about the occupation of the mountain areas of Chiapas by the Mexican Army's graduates of the School of Americas (Fort Benning).

Gene Gibba, Menifee, California, directed a successful $5.4 million campaign for a new emergency room at Hemet Hospital with assistance through grants from another YMCA retiree, Gary Curto of Banning, California.

Adrian Greek, Portland, Oregon, is in his second year as chair of Parkrose Community United Church of Christ Board of Missions and Outreach. The board is responsible for securing funds, food, clothing, and volunteers for four charities sponsoring fellowship programs recruiting new members.

Nancy Lupton, Douglas, Wyoming, participated in the Arizona Senior Olympics, taking a gold medal in the 5K race walk and silver in the 1500 meter walk.

Gary Huff, Sequim, Washington, headed up the major gifts team in the sustaining campaign for the Clallam County YMCA in Port Angeles. His 25-mile "hikeathon" raised $3500 and generated a story in the sports section of the local paper.

Former Messer Chapter President **Ken Thiel**, Northbrook, Illinois, was honored by the Northbrook Civic Foundation with its Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Barb Emery, Boise, Idaho, has been busy planning for the Rotary Club Auxiliary's spring fashion show.

BE A PART OF US

Member news is the most-read feature of *OGN* because people like to know what their friends and colleagues are doing. "News About Us" will report on your part– or full-time work, hobbies, honors, or volunteer service. Send your news to the editor (see page 5 for contact information). *OGN* does not generally use travel, health, or family news.

FILL 'ER UP?

George Haddad of Franklin. Michigan, took this incongruous photo during the Midwest NAFYR reunion last fall.

Cost of tsunami high in SE Asia

Months after the December 26 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, recovery work is still under way. In Sri Lanka, one of the hardest hit coutries, one million persons lost their homes, and 38,000 lost their lives.

In a memorandum to local YMCAs Ken Gladish, USA national executive, and National Board Chair David Epperson note the Asia Alliance and the World Alliance estimate a three-year recovery effort will cost at least $6 million. They are urging local associations and individual YMCA members and supporters to raise up to one-third of that total.

A video, "Tsunami 2004: YMCAs Respond," documents a trip to the region by several YMCA volunteers and staff and offers a quick glim9se of the magnitude of the disaster's impact and the Y's role in helping communities rebuild and face the future.

The video may be available for showing at NAFYR chapter meetings. Information is available from Mary Tikalsky in the International Group. Her telephone number is (800) USA-YMCA (extension 8371) and e-mail address is mary.tikalsky@ymca.net.

ANNIVERSARY LISTING POLICY

OGN will gladly list your "Golden Treasure" (50th or over anniversary). Anniversaries are listed only in the month they occur and must be sent to the editor at least six weeks prior to the month of the anniversary. Once entered, the date becomes part of the permanent file and does not need to be submitted each year. A post card is sent a few weeks prior to the anniversary month to confirm that the information is correct.

IF YOU ARE ON THE LIST, PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR IF YOU CHANGE ADDRESSES OR UPON THE DEATH OF A SPOUSE.

GOLDEN TREASURES

Married 64 years

Lillian and Stuart Macdonald, Toms River, N.J.—May 29
Pudge and Bob King, Hastings, Mich.—May 31

Married 63 years

Doris and Fred Cords, Oceanside, Calif.—May 17
Margaret and Franklin Engelhardt, Watertown, N.Y.—May 17
Lucile and Phil Hall, Nokomis, Fla.—May 26
Dorothy and Fred Wylie, Edina, Minn.—May 29

Married 59 years

Twila and Doug Sutherland, Raymore, Mo.—May 23

Married 56 years

Marge and Bill Knowles, Raymore, Mo.—May 21
Janet and Jack Wiley, Kirkland, Wash.—May 27

Married 55 years

Peg and Gene Clark, Littleton, N.H.—May 20
Barbara and Deak Preble, Bend, Oreg.—May 27

Married 54 years

Kay and Darwin Haines, Gig Harbor, Wash.—May 2
Ann and Dan Flanagan, Venice, Fla.—May 5
Gene and Clyde Bullard, Corsicana, Tex.—May 19

Married 53 years

Jackie and Ben Uyesato, Ballwin, Mo. May 4
Beth and Gordon Saunders, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.—May 10
Rea and Sam Finn, St. Louis, Mo.—May 17

Married 52 years

Darlene and Wade Eubanks, Louisville, Ky.—May 9
Phyllis and Robert Wise, Scottsdale, Ariz.—May 24

Married 51 years

Ad and Leigh Kendrick, Bowling Green, Ohio—May 1
Joyce and Marvin Erdal, Beverly Hills, Fla.—May 22

Married 50 years

Ann and Ben Childers, Waycross, Ga.—May 14
Pat and Tom Thrailkill, Swannanoa, N.C.—May 28

CORRECTION

Bob Hepburn reports that he thinks Frederick, Md., is a very nice town, but he and Adine have never lived there. They still reside in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, contrary to the report of their 56th wedding anniversary in the last month's issue. *OGN* regrets the error.