



# OGN

## Lineweaver to lead Jerusalem YMCA

**N**orris Lineweaver, currently president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, has been named the new director general of the Jerusalem

International YMCA. He will begin the position on November 1.

*OGN:* What do you see as your biggest challenge?

*Norris:* Len and Joyce have done a tremen-

ing my first as a World Service worker in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Norris succeeds Len Wilson, who held the position four-and-a-half years. Prior to his time in Indianapolis, Norris served YMCAs in Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles.

Norris responded to a few questions about his new assignment.

*OGN:* How do you feel about going to Jerusalem?

*Norris:* Jerusalem is a city more than 4000 years old and has been destroyed 38 times. The city seems to be an unfinished symphony in search of its composer. There is simply too much distraction in the headlines to try to rationalize this move. This one is probably the most compelling calling of my career.

*OGN:* Have you been involved with Jerusalem in the past?

*Norris:* A few months ago, my wife, MaLes and our daughter Katie, joined me to go “kick the tires” in Jerusalem. It was our first visit. But, like so many people, I cannot help but be involved with Jerusalem from afar. I have raised funds for YMCAs in the Holy Land, including the Jerusalem International Y. I have heard wonderful stories about Jerusalem in every assignment, includ-



**Norris Lineweaver will assume his duties as director general of the Jerusalem YMCA November 1. He and his wife, MaLes, stand in a courtyard of the Jerusalem Y on a recent visit.**

dous job during a very difficult period marked by the Second Intifada and the largest construction excavation in Jerusalem, located on YMCA property. Len succeeded Rizek Abusharr, who also did a fabulous piece of very dedicated work. The Crown David development project is coming out of the ground, and the foundations for the expanded program space for the YMCA are almost completed. Moving expectations to far greater performance in membership and program with the advent of the new capacity will be a formidable challenge. Expanding the role of the Y in interfaith dialogue amid a significantly diminished Christian community in the past five years will be another important challenge. Finally, establishing the YMCA as a unique center for leadership de-

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**There may well be lots of YMCA retirees who have lived unusually exciting lives. It would be difficult to find many who have lived the life and met and associated with as many famous people as John Thune of Kensington, Calif., retired CEO of the YMCA of the East Bay (Oakland, Calif.). Read his extraordinary story on page 4.**

### 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



JIM LIPSCOMB

As my term as president of NAFYR comes to an end, it is time to reflect on what a wonderful experience this has been. It has given me the opportunity to work with an outstanding board leadership team. The members' commitment to making NAFYR an important

fellowship of YMCA retirees has been great.

Another group I have come to enjoy is the chapter presidents. They are the major pipeline between the board and chapter members. I was able to visit many of the chapter functions in the past two years. The fellowship and caring among the members was very impressive. The chapters also raised dollars in support of the Emergency Assistance Fund, World Service, World Brotherhood Fund and many local projects. It showed me this "caring" extends beyond the chapter members to the international fellowship of the Y.

I am especially proud of the work done by the EAF committee of chapter representatives under the leadership of Dale Ventres. The board of AYP recognized them for their fund-raising results and leadership. In addition, they have been very active in identifying retirees who were in need of financial assistance. To their credit, not one request for assistance was rejected. This is the ultimate of caring for our NAFYR family!

The efforts of other committees have also been outstanding. Peg Andrews chaired the International Senior Service Corps, which has placed NAFYR members in overseas short-term assistance roles with those YMCAs that requested help. World Service fund-raising chair Walt Jacoby worked closely with the International Group of the YMCA of the USA to raise much needed money for YMCAs abroad. Rose Berberian worked many hours with her task force to explore ways early retirees might secure health insurance through the YMCA insurance program. This has been a difficult task because of many factors. Hopefully, the work will bear results in the near future.

I thank you for the opportunity to lead an organization of so many outstanding leaders. You make me proud!

Continued from page 1

velopment and partnerships for peace in the Middle East will be another very timely challenge.

**OGN:** What is your time commitment?

**Norris:** If you mean how long do I plan to give to this assignment, I retire in five years, and I plan this assignment to be the capstone of my career with the YMCA. I plan to finish by 2010 and prepare for the succession of the next generation of leadership of the Jerusalem YMCA.

**OGN:** How are you preparing for this assignment?

**Norris:** MaLes and I will be taking language training and tutoring in Hebrew and Arabic. We have taken an interim trip to Jerusalem to meet with Len and Joyce and make final arrangements for relocation. Len and I will spend a great deal of time documenting transition issues and sharing critical information on pending matters. I have a spread sheet to fill in initiatives for the first 100 days in Jerusalem as I receive advice from reliable sources of all faiths, both in and out of the YMCA.

**OGN:** Are you excited?

**Norris:** I did not think it would be possible to be more excited getting up in the morning than just completing my career here in Indianapolis. The adventure comes full circle as I boarded a flight to Ethiopia 38 years ago for my first career job in the YMCA. I cannot contemplate the feeling for the moment what it will be like to board the flight for Tel Aviv in late October, but I trust the feeling will be familiar. My first concern is how MaLes feels. Both of us are excited with eager anticipation as well as guarded apprehension. ▼

### New book tells of doctor with Y connection

Many former YMCA physical directors will remember the name of Dr. Hans Kraus, who devised an exercise program for people with back problems in the 1960s. Now, a book by Susan E. B. Schwartz, *Into the Unknown: The remarkable life of Hans Kraus*, tells the story of this remarkable man, famous on two continents for his mountain climbing exploits but more widely as President Kennedy's personal physician.

Al Melleby of New Bern, N.C., undoubtedly remembers him better than any other. Al recruited Dr. Kraus for a medical advisory committee when Al was the director of physical education for the YMCA of New York City. Together, they developed a program that was ultimately used in about 1000 YMCAs. A book by Al, *The Y's Way to A Healthy Back*, was published and sold in six languages.

"I knew Dr. Kraus well and considered him . . . my best friend," said Al but added he was not necessarily Dr. Kraus' best friend "since his friends are legion world wide."

The book can be ordered from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [bn.com](http://bn.com). It is also available through the author's web site at [www.susanebschwartz.cpm](http://www.susanebschwartz.cpm).

### Board approves bylaws change

Following the required 60-day waiting period, the proposed change in the NAFYR bylaws was approved by the NAFYR board. The change means the NAFYR reunions return to a three-year cycle. The next reunion following the Minneapolis event will be held in 2008.

## FROM THE CHAPTERS

### Dave and Connie Snow lead Ozark Chapter

Dave and Connie Snow of St. Paul, Nebr., will serve as co-presidents of the Greater Ozark Chapter (Missouri, northern Arkansas, eastern Kansas). They will also share the editor duties. The vice president is Phil Hellwege of Creve Coeur, Mo. Secretary and treasurer are Jim Knight of Kansas City, Mo., and Harland Johnson of Lincoln, Nebr., respectively.

### Copeland Budge board meets

The Copeland-Budge Chapter (Canada) met July 6 at the offices of YMCA Canada in Toronto. National CEO Michael Weil was in attendance, as was Franca D'Angelo (executive assistant) and Ian Fleming (historian). Much of the board's discussion centered on future meeting events, with the biggest being the 70th anniversary celebration meeting at Geneva Park. Former Chapter President Jake Smythe is the organizer for the event.

Membership development also received considerable discussion. Jackie Kennedy reported 14 new members this year to date. Michael Weil agreed to endorse the chapter through "Y Canada News." Jackie is following up on an effort to locate "lost colleagues." Ken Mackeracher is seeking ways to find former staff members of the Montreal staff and to form a Montreal cluster. *Reported by Ken Mackeracher.*

### Upper Midwest previews reunion tour

Twenty-four Upper Midwest Chapter members did a preview tour of the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis July 19 as part of its summer meeting. The museum is one of the Reunion 2005 tour offerings. Built within the limestone ruins of the historic Washburn flour mill, the \$32 million facility brings to life the stories about the art, culture, commerce and espionage of the flour-milling era of Minneapolis, at one time, the largest in the world. The tour included many interesting interactive exhibits, a unique nine-story group elevator ride that shows how the mill operated, and a grand view of the Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls that furnished the water power with which the Washburn mill and several other mills used to operate. Following the tour, members walked to the famous Spaghetti Factory restaurant for lunch and a short meeting. John Traver, chair of Reunion 2005,

## CHAPTER CALENDAR



**ALLEN-STONE** Darwin/Kay Haines 850/235-2592  
dkhaines@centurytel.net

Sept. 7-9, Seabeck Reunion, Seabeck, Wash.

**COPELAND-BUDGE** Jack Pearse 519/885-6097  
Jack@Tawingo.net

Sept. 28, chapter meeting, Peterboro, Ont.

**GRAND CANYON** Peg Andrews 623/546-9514  
pandrews1@Cox.net

Sept. 6-8, Fall Reunion, YMCA of the Rockies

**MARSTON** Jorge Candon 858/530-1662

Sept. 28, chapter meeting, Camp Marston

**MC COY** Doug Sprague 530/541-8960  
DougandGinny@kmtm.com

Sept. 8, Davis Cluster, Ortmeyers, Davis, Calif.

**NAFYR** Jim Lipscomb 505/255-4031  
Jlipsco32@aol.com

October 6-9, Reunion 2005, Minneapolis, Minn.

**NEW ENGLAND** Chuck/Nancy Goding 860/568-0846  
CGo4959762@aol.com

Sept. 21, Annual Meeting, Sturbridge, Mass.

**WEIDENSALL** Bill/Vaada Ellisor 303/973-1091  
VaadaBill@msn.com

Sept. 6-8, Fall Reunion, YMCA of the Rockies

announced all is ready for the October 6-9 get together. Chapter member Larry Cadwell was recognized for attaining his 100th birthday. *Reported by Chuck Holmes.*

### Central Atlantic Chapter does evaluation

The Central Atlantic Chapter is the first to report using the chapter evaluation process developed by NAFYR Vice President Bob Golay. Thirty-six specific sub-topics under three general areas (administration, program, communications) were discussed by three groups of five chapter members each. Groups considered 12 sub-topics. The chapter's self-evaluation resulted in a score of 273 out of a possible 360.



Anne Moore listens intently during the chapter's self evaluation.

Continued on page 6

## Y retiree has lived an extraordinary life

**W**hat would it be like to have worked with a future U.S. President, boxer Joe Louis, and movie stars Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) and Clayton Moore (of Lone Ranger fame), encountered Sir Edmund Hillary in Nepal and played baseball with baseball Hall of Famer Lou Boudreau and John Wooden, legendary basketball coach? John Thune

of Kensington, Calif., could tell you.

John, who retired as CEO of the YMCA in Oakland, Calif., in 1979, has done all that and more. He has encountered three Popes and the Dalai Lama and has been grilled by the Soviet Union KGB.

Born in Chicago, John was a natural athlete. Once, in a youth football game, he booted a punt that drew a compliment from football great Red Grange. He was an active gymnast in high school and joined a trapeze act out of the Illinois Athletic Club.

John is an avid outdoorsman, and it was as a seasonal ranger at Yellowstone National Park where his roommate was Gerald Ford. He is a member of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and Save the Redwoods League. He was a member of the Ski Patrol and named outstanding patrolman in the Far West Division in 1969-70 and runner-up for the honor in the nation.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, where he was on the wrestling and gymnastic teams, John tried the business world, taking a job in Muskegon, Mich., and began volunteering for the YMCA there. That led to an offer to become physical director in 1940.

He moved to the Oakland YMCA in 1942 and went through a

succession of positions. World War II interrupted his Y career as he joined the Navy, where his ultimate assignment was teaching survival skills to pilots.

Following discharge, he returned



John Thune retired from the YMCA of the East Bay (Oakland, Calif.) in 1979.

to the Oakland association and resumed his educational pursuits, earning a master's degree in physical education at Cal-Berkeley. Spurning an offer to join the college faculty, John stayed with the YMCA and in 1949, became the executive director.

He led the association through the next three decades handling the challenges of that culture-changing time. Among those were the integration of the YMCA

and negotiating with the hotel workers' union, which represented the housekeeping staff in the Y's 200-room residence. At a time (in the 60s) when the regional YMCA was judging YMCAs by the number of Gra-Y and Hi-Y clubs, the Oakland association was conducting child care, creative arts, an alternative high school and a home for young offenders.

Now 88, John remains "sharp as a tack," according to his friend, Roger Martin, who retired from the San Diego YMCA. John still works



In 1992 at age 75, John placed first in a five-mile run.

out regularly at the Oakland Y.

Among the honors John has accumulated in his career are the Director of Physical Education title (from the Physical Education Society of North America, a section of AOS), George Washington Bronze Medal from the Freedom Foundation for outstanding contributions to youth, Liberty Bell Award from the Alameda County Bar Association and Medallion of Dedicated Service to the YMCA and the community from the YMCA. He has been named president emeritus of the YMCA of the East Bay. He is also chair of the trustees of a YMCA foundation and still volunteers in the Y's sustaining campaign. ▼



While mountain climbing in Nepal in 1972, John met Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to scale Mount Everest.



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

**Donald Anderson (Spouse: Sue)**, pres/CEO, YMCA, Honolulu, Hawaii. 132 Nukupuu Pl., Kaneohe, HI 96744. E-mail: danderson@ymcahonolulu.org

**Robert Brooks (Caroline)**, ex dir, YMCA, Hacienda Heights, Calif. 1220 N. Pinnon Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97526. E-mail: boboline@earthlink.net

**Linda Brueggemeyer (Joseph)**, lead tchr, YMCA, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1830 Loisdale Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45255.

**Ariani Friedl (Joel)**, dir ctr intl affrs, YMCA, Elgin, Ill. 1717 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago, IL 60616. E-mail: arianifriedl@hotmail.com

**Valerie Gottschalk (Donald)**, ops dir, YMCA, Waukesha, Wis. 1465 Milwaukee St., Delafield, WI 53018. E-mail: val-gottschalk@hotmail.com

**Timothy Groy (Gail)**, phys dir, YMCA, Westfield, N.J. 159 Normandy Ave., Bayville, NJ 08721.

**Michael Maeder**, dev dir, YMCA, San Rafael, Calif. 22 Pacheco NE, Fairfax, CA 94930

**Joseph James Marino (Gloria Jean)**, pres, YMCA, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 1279 94th St., Niagara Falls, NY 14304. E-mail: joejandgloriaj@aol.com

**Polly Eberhardt (Steve)**, sr prog dir, YMCA, Madison, N.J. P.O. Box 72 Boonton, NJ 02005. E-mail: sceberhardt@att.net

**Phil Keller (Marsha)**, ex dir, Indian bndry YMCA, Chicago. 6766 Valley View Dr., Downers Grove, IL 60516. E-mail: phil-trains@comcast.net

**Rick Montondo (Pat)**, VP, fin dev, YMCA, Naperville, Ill. 3807 E. Hazeltine Way, Chandler, AZ 85249. E-mail: richardmontondo@yahoo.com

**Virginia Carstarphen (Bill)**, fin dev dir. 1550 Coventry Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211. E-mail: vcarstarphen@bellsouth.net

**John Dague**, head mntnce dir, YMCA, Dubuque, Iowa. 709 Garfield, Dubuque, IA 52001.

**Rita Feldmeier (Ray)**, gymst coord, YMCA, Waukesha, Wis. 827 Oakland Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186.

## OGN

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Fifth of a series

## The 60s—A period of enlightenment

By Frank Kiehne, Reading, Pa.

**I**t is hard to believe a resolution to identify ourselves with the non-violent movement of Martin Luther King, Jr., was defeated at the 1963 AOS Triennial Conference in Philadelphia.

That is just what happened. The resolution was introduced by a group of 16, including Bob Harlan, Bill Huffman and Bob Lance, all of whom are now deceased. In spite of the closeness of the vote, the official report did not give ample space to our minority opinion. In the YMCA movement there were supportive elements at work creating mind changes.



Frank Kiehne

Sensitivity training, pioneered by Tilden Harrison, was one. Most important was the work of Leo Marsh and his National Commission on Interracial Practices and Programs. Backed by National General Secretary, Jim Bunting, the commission never let a National Council meeting end without some progress being made. The shift of the term "Negro" to "Black, the phrase "Black is Beautiful" and the advent of BANWYS (Black and Non-White YMCA Secretaries) were important.

Some of the YMCAs in the northeast formed the Concerned Associations with the purpose of supporting these changes. At the first meeting in Newark, N.J., I served as convener. When I suggested we divide into black and white discussion groups, John Copeland strongly objected. "In all my years in the YMCA," he said, "I never participated in anything like this." My deep respect for John set me back for a moment, but he was convinced this was the only way to build an atmosphere for honest dialogue. The

feeling expressed back in the plenary sessions shocked both black and white members.

The Reading Y, where I served as the executive, was deeply involved in racial tensions through our detached worker program. This included dealing with a march by the KKK on our main street shortly after King's assassination. The Reading Y sent Dr. Peter Smith, a board member, to represent us at King's funeral in Atlanta.

We opened a "House of Soul" mainly for black teenagers on that same street the KKK marched on. It was not uncommon to hear whites say, "They have their club on our street."

But, it was obvious more was needed. We succeeded in obtaining a \$25,000 grant to start a Department of Behavior Change in Racial Attitudes, which was headed by Sam Richardson, who later become director of Chicago's detached worker program. Seminars on "Understanding Black Power" helped both black and white people realize our minds had been processed over the years to think negatively of blackness. We filled the auditorium with the most important people in the city and ran several of the four-part series. We also formed a group called Crisis Forum, consisting mainly of white members. They met almost weekly for discussion, then went into the community speaking to church, school and service club groups.

Those were exciting days.

Most important was the enlightenment that came from the experience that helped many YMCAs ultimately make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday an official holiday before it was nationally recognized. Tom Hargrave and Julius Jones still recall the Washington, D.C., association was one of the first in 1972.

That was change, but have we as retired directors really changed? Is the pendulum swinging in the opposite direction? What a disappointment to see the disproportionate attendance of African American retirees in our present day NAFYR chapter and fellowship-wide meetings. ▼

**NEXT MONTH: Integration in the Atlanta YMCA**

Continued from page 3

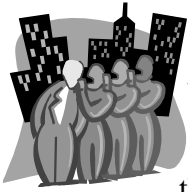
### Marston picnics in Point Loma

The Marston Chapter (Southern California) met July 28 for a picnic with a Hawaiian theme. At a brief business meeting, President Jorge Candon welcomed Lynn and Joy Rinehart and Walter and Verna

Greise, Y retirees who have just moved to the area. Co-Treasurer Eileen Davis gave a financial report, and Bob Schmidt reported on members with health problems. Barb Schmidt announced "The Grapevine," the chapter's newsletter, can now be seen on the Retirement

Fund's website. The group then retired to the nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church to see a production of *The Music Man* performed in the church's theater. The picnic and play is a popular annual event for the chapter. *Reported by Barb Schmidt.*

## JUST AMONG FRIENDS— NEWS ABOUT US



**Don Greer**, Tulsa, Okla., retired in 1978 from the YMCA, but worked another 23 years with Accent Mayflower in Tulsa. He has now retired again, at age 89, this time with his wife, **Fern**, in a retirement village.

**Conrad Fassold**, Lenexa, Kans., has retired as secretary of his Rotary Club after 17 years. He also retired from delivering Meals on Wheels after 15 years. But, he's hardly just sitting around. He continues to volunteer at his church and his retirement village.

Past President **Stew Brown**, Nathrop, Colo., is organizing a committee to celebrate the 200-year anniversary of Zebulon Pike's exploration of Chaffee County for Thomas Jefferson. Pike's Peak was named for the pioneer.

Former secretary general of the World Alliance **John Casey** of Chicago, Ill., is involved in a number of projects, including the Transatlantic Conferences on Race and Xenophobia, the UN Global Compact program, African-American leadership meetings with Kofe Annan and several others.

**Mary Williams**, Gretna, La., won gold medals in volleyball and 3-on-3 basketball in the 70+ age group of the 2005 National Senior Games in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Carlton "Bud" Chopp**, Allegan, Mich., took home gold in the 50- and 100-yard backstroke in the Michigan Senior Olympics. He also took silver in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. He was spurred on by banners held by his grandchildren reading, "GO, GRAMP, GO."

## WE REMEMBER

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

**Harley Van Akkeren**, 88, 2/12/05. Spouse: Helen Van Akkeren, 141 N. Ninth Pl., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

**William H. Bruce**, 78, 6/1/05. Spouse: Marie Bruce, 298 Shorecliff Dr., Rochester, NY 14612.

**Thomas E. Cade**, 64, 6/16/05. Spouse: Susan Cade, 201 E. Falleaf Dr., Copan, OK 74022.

**Thomas J. Curtin**, 88, 6/11/05. Children, c/o Thomas Curtin, Jr., 29 N. Washington, Carpentersville, IL 60110.

**Alan E. Holladay**, 70, 6/2/05. Spouse: Gail Holladay, 8326 NW 115th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73162.

**Curtis E. Keener**, 81, 6/12/05. Spouse: Rachel Keener, 36 Coventry Court E., Mount Vernon, OH 43050.

**Robert H. Marshall**, 96, 5/23/05. Daughter: Judith Kennedy, P. O. Box 60, No. Conway, NH 03860.

**Thomas Milligan**, 88, 6/15/05. Children: c/o Thomas Milligan, Jr. P.O. Box 764, Sanford, ME 04073.

**Charles F. Moffat**, 68, 4/22/05. No survivors listed.

**Ray M. Snyder**, 81, 5/23/05. Spouse: JoAn Snyder, 718 Ronmar, Defiance, OH 43512.

**James W. Wilson**, 85, 5/29/05. Children, c/o Margaret Bathke, 503 Hargis Lane, Belton, MO 64012.

### Widower

**Rudolph Tessein (spouse Josephine)**, Hightstown, N.J.



## GOLDEN TREASURES



### *Married 68 years*

Freedra and Bob Apgar, Orange City, Fla.—Sept. 4

### *Married 62 years*

Carol and Harry Wardell, Canterbury, N.H.—Sept. 7  
Zama and Orwell Tousley, West Hartford, Conn.—Sept. 12

### *Married 58 years*

Yolana and Don McKiernan, Southport, N.C.—Sept. 13  
Audrey and Len Covello, Prescott, Ariz.—Sept. 27

### *Married 57 years*

Alta and Ken Thiel, Northbrook, Ill.—Sept. 4  
Olive and Bob Carlson, Charlotte, N.C.—Sept. 11  
Rachel and Curtis Keener, Mount Vernon, Ohio—Sept. 11  
Betty and Dale Soble, Winter Haven, Fla.—Sept. 11  
Ada and Dick Taylor, Walla Walla, Wash.—Sept. 18  
Dorothy and Robert Karmgard, Chicago, Ill.—Sept. 25

### *Married 56 years*

Mary Lou and Joe Mesplou, Torrance, Calif.—Sept. 10  
Patricia and Fred Zitzer, Bozeman, Mont.—Sept. 10  
Ericka and Mike Andrassy, Almonte, Ont.—Sept. 17  
Martha and Ray Bardin, Rowlett, Tex.—Sept. 30

### *Married 55 years*

Buena and Scotty Washburn, Salem, Oreg.—Sept. 3  
Shirley and John B. Tisdale, San Diego, Calif.—Sept. 5  
Marion and Robert Leonard, Puyallup, Wash.—Sept. 14

### *Married 54 years*

Phyllis and John Barclay, Westfield, Mass.—Sept. 8  
Ann and Jack Cole, Golden Valley, Minn.—Sept. 21  
Claudean and Sam Bixler, Chandler, Ariz.—Sept. 28  
Erma and Robert Sanders, Jr., Richmond, Va.—Sept. 29

### *Married 53 years*

Jan and Gil Mosher, Lockport, N.Y.—Sept. 13

### *Married 52 years*

Hope and Tom Patton, Dover, Ohio—Sept. 5

### *Married 51 years*

Mary and Howie Merrick, Hamilton Square, N.J.—Sept. 11  
Gretchen and Roy Nelson, Warwick, R.I.—Sept. 11  
Arlene and Tom Hetrick, Hickory, N.C.—Sept. 18  
Florence and Don Toft, Sioux Falls, S.D.—Sept. 24

### *Married 50 years*

Mary Alice and Dick Davis, Vineland, N.J.—Sept. 5  
Beverly and Alfred Hansen, Pascoag, R.I.—Sept. 10  
Juanita and Ed Jezek, Edmond, Okla.—Sept. 17  
June and Dan Harris, Pickens, S.C.—Sept. 24  
Barbara and Alexander Smolenski, Scotia, N.Y.—Sept. 25

## Volunteer value rises

Volunteers in the United States donated an estimated \$272 billion worth of services in 2004, according to a report from the Independent Sector, a coalition of philanthropic advocacy organizations. The hourly value is based on the average hourly earnings of all nonagricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The hourly value of volunteer time in 2004 was \$17.55 per hour, 36 cents higher than in 2003.

The report, noted in *Discovery*, the magazine of the YMCA of the USA, was compiled by Ann Feeny of Y-USA.

## OGN REGRETS

Through an editorial error, a “Golden Treasure” was omitted last month. Marcia and Bob DeYoung celebrated their 55th anniversary on August 12.

OGN regrets the error.

## Retirement Fund says parity gap closing

The (US) YMCA Retirement Fund has announced the parity gap between actives and retirees is closing. Strong interest rates credited to actives during 2005 means the disparity will be cut from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent. In the future, after parity is restored, if interest credits to actives exceeds the annuity conversion rate for retirees, an allocation of extra checks may be made to retirees.

The Fund’s web site also states the Board of Trustees voted a 7 per cent interest credit for the six-month period July-December 2005. Combined with the 12 per cent annualized interest for the first six months of the calendar year, it results in a 9.5 per cent annualized interest for 2005.