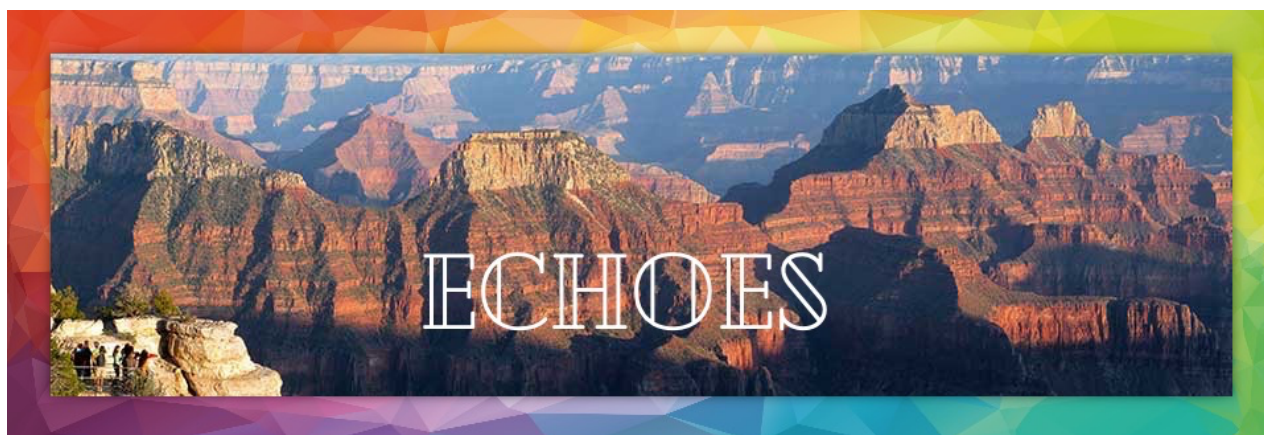


From: **Grand Canyon YMCA Alumni** ymcaalumninews+icloud.com@ccsend.com
Subject: Here's Your December Grand Canyon Chapter ECHOES
Date: November 27, 2019 at 6:01 AM
To: caltschul@icloud.com



Grand Canyon Chapter • December 2019

Hello Craig,

As we write this message we have most recently returned from **Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point), Mexico** where we joined members of the **Southern Arizona Cluster** of our **Grand Canyon Chapter** for a fun-filled three days at the **Sea of Cortez**.



Many thanks to **Cris Ciasca** and **Dane Woll** (Tucson YMCA Alumni) for organizing and leading a great gathering. **Dane** and his wife, **Nancy**, hosted Happy Hour in their lovely condo overlooking the waterfront. **Cris** and her husband, **Al**, entertained us for lunch at their beautiful beachfront home. A leisurely walk down the beach was also enjoyed. Another highlight of the gathering was a Sunset Cruise on the Sea of Cortez.

JOJO OF CORTEZ.

The sunset was truly amazing and we delighted in lots of free MaiTai drinks while watching dolphins playing alongside the boat. It was such fun. We enjoyed many nice meals together and we are all hoping this will be an annual event with the ultimate hope that **Cris** and **Dane** will organize it again next year!

Another great event enjoyed by our **Grand Canyon** retirees took place in **Estes Park, Colo.**, in August. It was first suggested by **Pres Johnson** of **Green Valley, Ariz.**, and then organized and led by **Rick Taylor** of Estes Park. The gathering attracted attendees from **Colorado, New Mexico** and **Arizona**. We stayed in a lodge at the **YMCA of the Rockies** where the beauty of the mountains surrounded us. We visited with YMCA of the Rockies executive staff and then **Kent Meyer**, recently retired Y-Rockies CEO, led us on a Y History Walk. **John Brooks** organized a Golf Outing and others enjoyed free time and shopping in the town of **Estes Park**.

Dinners together and time to relax and chat in the **Wind River Lodge** lobby made this gathering with our longtime friends very special. **Rick Taylor** even convinced **Robert Ruesch** (son of former YMCA of the Rockies General Director **Walter Ruesch**) to give a talk about his book titled "*Growing Up at the Y of the Rockies*." A guided tour of Rocky Mountain National Park and then a hayride and cookout ended our Estes Park event! **Rick**, you and your committee did a fabulous job.

We couldn't end this message without commenting on the **YMCA Alumni Reunion '19** Sept. 24-26 in **Louisville, Ky**. We joined YMCA retirees and friends from all over the nation to celebrate our friendships and enjoy Kentucky hospitality. The **Belle of Louisville** dinner cruise Opening Night on the Ohio River got it all off to a great start.

There were workshops and presentations and tours galore. We enjoyed a tour of the **Buffalo Trace Distillery** where we had a chance to taste their "products." On the last day, we were part of the presentation team at the **YMCA Alumni Travel Club Roundtable** as we are hosting the **Canyon Adventure** trip in the fall of **2020**. More on the **Travel Club** in this newsletter.

So, what's next in the coming year for our **Grand Canyon Chapter**? Well, that's partly up to you. What would you like to see our chapter doing? Where would you like to go? Would you be willing to put together a gathering as **Cris** and **Dane** and **Rick** did? Whenever our chapter members get together, there is always a good time for all. Think about it and send us an email or call 505-238-5272. We would especially like to hear from some of you in the **Central** and **Northern Arizona Clusters**.

As we approach the holidays we would like to wish you the happiest of seasons. May you have a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

Marian and Dave Bolton

Co-Presidents

(Photo: **Marian** and **Dave** at Estes Park)

It's Time To Renew Your Membership

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



It is time to renew your **YMCA Alumni** membership. The renewal period ends Dec. 31, 2019. You have received a membership packet in snail mail as well as the recent edition of **The CONNECTION** that included the renewal form.

But the easiest, fastest way to renew is to do so online. Just click on the red button below.

Be a part of a national fellowship that extends throughout the world. Enjoy the renewed friendship of those with whom you worked for many years. Your membership is free once you hit age 90. Your membership is also free if you are just joining for your first year.

Our **Grand Canyon Chapter** dues are \$40 a year for a household and \$35 a year for a single including National YMCA Alumni dues. Please renew now if you haven't yet done so.

CLICK TO RENEW

From Estes Park To Rocky Point In Photos







ABQ Cluster Becomes 'Lunch Bunch' Once A Month

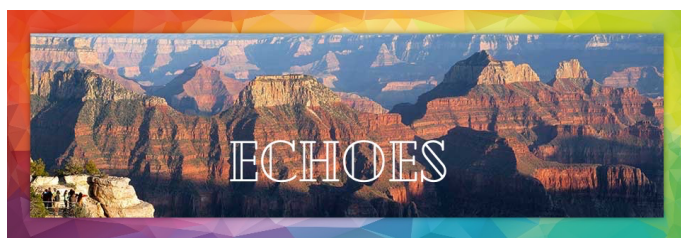


Monte Carlo Steakhouse in central **Albuquerque** got the attention of a number of chapter members in November. The group will have a **Christmas lunch** Dec. 19 at the Red Lobster.



Pete Smargon, Ken Callahan and **Dave Bolton** catch up at one of the **ABQ Cluster's** monthly luncheons. The lunches usually have 15-20 in attendance.

A New Format For 'Echoes'



them.

Bill and Char Moss have edited and published **ECHOES**, the Grand Canyon Chapter newsletter, for the past three years. We want to shout out a **Thank You** to

This was **Bill's** second time around at producing the newsletter and he did his usual splendid job. So thanks again.

ECHOES will now be produced as part of the **National YMCA Alumni Board's Newsletter Program** by **Craig Altschul + Associates**. (Craig and Pegg are members of the **Grand Canyon Chapter** and their company is the Communications Agency for **YMCA Alumni**) We look forward to

the Communications Agency for **INCA Arizona**. We look forward to having **ECHOES** continue. The new format is in **Constant Contact**, the leading platform for business and nonprofit newsletter e-mailings.

However, it **can't continue without your involvement**. When you receive a request to let us know what you are doing, you need to respond. Send your news to [Marian Bolton](#) at any time.

Reporting On Chapter Business



We conducted a **Grand Canyon Chapter** Business meeting at **Estes Park**. Here are the notes:

FINANCES: Chapter Treasurer **Rich Hill** reported the chapter has a \$7,000 net balance.

WORLD SERVICE/EAF: There were reports from **Pam Hegarty** (for **Pete Smargon**) for **World Service** and **John Brooks** for **EAF**. Both urged members to contribute.

DUES: Chapter Membership Dues were discussed and it was decided to keep the dues at the same rate.

PLANS: There was much discussion about future plans for the chapter. It was decided that more emphasis will be put on cluster activities. Clusters are **Albuquerque, Colorado, Northern Arizona** and **Southern Arizona**. A representative for the Northern Arizona cluster is needed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: **Clark Lupton** brought up the need for a Nominating Committee to secure officers for the coming year(s). **Marian and Dave Bolton** will continue for one more year as Co-Presidents while a committee looks for others to provide needed leadership, especially in the Vice President position.



Connecting With Our Members; Let Us Hear From You





Pres Johnson was part of an **HONOR FLIGHT** out of Tucson in late October. He was one of 23 veterans going on the flight. **Pres**, who just turned 90, served in the **Army** from **June 1952 - May 1954** in **South Korea** as part of the 34th Infantry Regiment and was involved in security, intelligence and reconnaissance. He has visited **Washington, D.C.** several times but all before the war memorials were built. His son **Ken** from Spokane was with him on the trip.

Rich and Susan Hill took a summer RV trip to the East Coast. They've been busy this fall. **Rich** is working as Treasurer of the Resident's Council at **La Posada Retirement Community** and **Susan** has been giving Art Talks around the **Tucson** area. (Photo: The Shoppes At La Posada in Green Valley, Ariz.).



Craig Altschul and **Peggi Simmons** are headed for a week in London as this newsletter hits the e-mail. After hosting the **YMCA Alumni Travel Club's "British and Irish Grandeur"** trip in May, **Craig and Peggi** will host the Travel Club's "Trade Routes of The Middle Ages" **Viking Ocean Cruise**

in 2021. They urge members to sign-up early for best cabins. (Photo: Big Ben and Parliament)

You Are Automatically A Travel Club Member So It's Time To Pack For 2020 Trips



You're already a **YMCA Alumni Travel Club member**. No forms to fill out, no extra membership fees to pay. All because you are a member of **Grand Canyon YMCA Alumni Chapter**.

All trips, domestic and international, are hosted by a travel-wise **YMCA Alumni** member, and trips are chosen from your suggestions by a volunteer committee. Several **Grand Canyon Chapter** members participated on the "**British & Irish Grandeur**" (Marian and Dave Bolton, Craig Altschul and Peggi Simmons) and "**Alaska Medley**" (Pete and Jan Smargon, Pam Hegarty, Jim and Mary Lipscomb) and reported having a great time. This is an especially good opportunity for new travelers to go with supportive friends.

Speaking of the Canyons, **Marian and Dave Bolton** are hosts on the Travel Club's "**Canyon Country Adventure**" motor coach tour Oct. 13-20, 2020 with **Globus Tours**. Tell your friends and family across the country.

Be sure to visit the brand new Official YMCA Alumni Travel Club Information Center by clicking on the screenshot image above.

There's even a sneak preview of the first **2021** trip planned (hint: a **Viking Ocean Cruise**). Check back often as new trips are always in the works.

Grand Canyon Chapter Of YMCA Alumni



Co-Presidents: [Marian and Dave Bolton](#)

Secretary: [Pam Hegarty](#)

Treasurer: [Rich Hill](#)

Membership: [Susan Hill](#)

EAF Representative: [John Brooks](#)

International: [Pete and Jan Smargon](#)

ECHOES Production:

[Craig Altschul](#) and [Peggi Simmons](#)

Santa Pete

Visit our [YMCA Alumni Website](#)

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The mission of YMCA Alumni is "to enable members to promote a nurturing worldwide Christian Fellowship that provides educational, social, service and charitable opportunities."

YMCA Alumni | P.O. Box 120989, Staten Island, NY 10313

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