

**From:** McBurney-Morse YMCA Alumni ymcaalumninews+icloud.com@ccsend.com  
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# *The Messenger*

## McBurney-Morse Chapter E-Letter

June 2020

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Hello Craig,

Can you imagine this period without email, FaceTime and Zoom? We can stay in touch even though we cannot meet in person. Here is news from some of our members. We would like to hear from you, too.



Send us an update for our next newsletter. We hope you and your families are healthy, safe and not suffering too much from "cabin fever."

We **YMCA Alumni** members are lucky. We have comfortable homes and the YMCA Retirement Fund to keep us going. We pray for those who are ill, who must work, who have lost their jobs or family members, or who live in unsafe situations.

This is an anxious time for many. Most of us are active volunteers, but we older people are urged to stay home for an indefinite period. How do we help our communities, the YMCA, the country and the world respond to and recover from the virus, the economic problems caused by the shutdown, and the latest exposure of racial injustice?

We may not be able to deliver food or march in a protest, but we have power. We have powerful tools: the telephone, pen, checkbook, and all those digital communication marvels we are finally figuring out how

to use.

And prayer. We can vote. We can be a tremendous support team. We can call someone who is lonely, write a letter or email or send a text to share an opinion or offer moral support, offer our expertise, send a donation, apply for an absentee ballot, sew a mask, ask our local YMCA what we can do from home to help. We are powerful!

[Ralph Christian](#) and [Bonnie Mairs](#)  
Co-Chairs

## Chapter Contributes To YMCA Charities



Our chapter donates to several **YMCA-related** charities each year. There was no vote taken for our 2019 gifts because we did not meet in December. Treasurer **Kurt Kaboth** reports we have \$3,666 in our bank account, so your chapter leadership team voted to give \$300 to each of our traditional charities: **Jerusalem**

**International YMCA, Sioux Indian YMCA, YMCA of Haiti and Secours Speciaux** (the World Y emergency assistance fund for staff and retirees). We will determine 2020 gifts in December.

## YMCA Camps And This Strange Summer Without Them

Our **YMCA camps** face difficult decisions as summer approaches, all forced by the **COVID-19** coronavirus pandemic.

The **YMCA of the USA** and the **American Camp Association** have worked together to announce the release of guidelines and resources to support day and overnight summer camp operations for this summer.

They provide recommended practices for camps to help all parties, parents included, make informed decisions related to camp programs amid the virus pandemic.

The **YMCA of Greater New York** announced early last month that, following a full review, the **Greenkill, Talcott,** and **McAlister** camps in Huguenot, N.Y., would not operate.

**Frost Valley YMCA**



Executive Director **Thad Gifford-Smith** wrote in a letter to their campers, "The decision was not made lightly" and "we have had to take different steps to ensure the Y can withstand this indefinite pause to protect the health and safety of our community."

**Jerry Huncoskey**, CEO of the **Frost Valley YMCA** in Claryville, N.Y., shared their decision saying, "It is with a heavy heart, I share with you that the Frost Valley YMCA will not be offering overnight or day camp this summer. After many long days and sleepless nights, our staff and I worked to find solutions to every possible contingency, but ultimately the uncertainties are still too great too late in the season."

Many camps have been offering virtual online classes throughout the spring and will continue to do so over the summer. Examples include a variety of arts and crafts projects, yoga, Zumba and exercise programs, guitar lessons, and even virtual campfire programs.

Other Y camps have made similar decisions not to operate; some will operate following the guidelines established and adapted to the camp's unique situations. Regardless, summer camp has long been an important part of growing up for so many and this summer will be different. Contact the camps or the YMCA directly for information about any specific day or resident camp program.

--By **John H. Hedbavny**

## "Laissez les bon temps roller"

*"Let the good times roll"*



**YMCA Alumni** members will gather in The Big Easy - **New Orleans**, Louisiana, for **Reunion '22, Jan. 12-15, 2022**. Mark your calendars now. Our **YMCA Alumni Travel Club** also is working on pre- and/or post ocean and river cruises so all of us snowbirds can enjoy a wonderful winter vacation. Stay tuned as details develop.



## All About Us...

**George Painter** is working on his Kattskill Bay, N.Y. property and helbina a

**Janice Carthens**, Westfield, N.J, is a new member. She retired April 30 after 13 years

and helping a neighbor. George will be our chapter's representative on a new YMCA Alumni committee that will be developing a national service project for all chapters' participation. Thanks for agreeing to serve, George.

**Brigitte Cappelli** plans to move to Rifle, Colo. to be near her son's family. She already has a place in a senior living complex and is anxious to get there. She is not walking well but gets help and grocery delivery from her church in her current New Jersey home. She sends greetings to all.

**Steve Oswald** left his home in Brooklyn to shelter with his sister near Pawling, New York. He is exercising, keeping up with friends remotely and looking forward to going home when he can.

**Olin "Buddy" Campbell** of Orchard Park, N.Y., retired a year ago as CEO of the Buffalo and Niagara Falls YMCA. His oldest son, an ophthalmologist, caught the virus, but is ok now. Several other family members had it too, but are also ok.

**Kurt Kaboth** of Asbury Park, N.J., and his wife are venturing out only to buy groceries or to walk on the beach. He is

remotely helping out with the Westfield YMCA. She has a beautiful grandson who just turned 4. She says, "We will get through this virus situation and I look forward to our first in-person gathering when we can."

**Bob Lomauro**, Lebanon N.J., continues to chair the YMCA Alumni International Service Corps Task Force. Its volunteer trip to the Sioux Indian YMCA in South Dakota has been postponed. The Sioux YMCA is supporting its community by delivering food to families whose children are not in school.

**New Jersey Birthday Boys Tatsuo Honma** of Glen Ridge N.J., celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday with his wife **Emiko**, family and friends. Their son came from Tokyo to join the party. And to **Paul Sharar** of Glen Rock, N.J., who turned 89 and partied with his daughters.

**Chuck and Maryan Ainsworth** are sharing their home with their son and daughter-in-law who left NYC to sit out the virus with them in Old Greenwich, Conn. They "appreciate the home delivery of good wine."

**Alice Lundrigan** is managing at home in Brooklyn, staying in contact digitally with family and keeping busy with

WALK ON THE BEACH. HE IS serving as gym instructor for his wife who broke her collar bone and is doing physical therapy.

FAMILY, AND KEEPING BUSY WITH jigsaw puzzles. How many pieces, Alice?

**Dave Berry**, South Orange, N.J., has been staying home and closely observing all “safe distancing rules.” Dave and family are doing well and look forward to getting back to their regular daily routines. The Broadway show fans had to forgo their theater plans and donated their hard-to-get show tickets.

**Bonnie Mairs** is in NYC, getting food deliveries from a wonderful volunteer group of young people called Invisible Hands. She is reading a lot and learning to bake bread. She also chairs Secours Speciaux, the World YMCA’s Emergency Assistance Fund. It recently sent support checks to 77 international Y retirees with little or no pensions.

**Ron Sargent**, of Morris Plains, N.J., is staying safe at home. Ron, retired Executive Vice President with the YMCA Retirement fund, expressed a general concern for the health of many local YMCAs. Ron and Lucretia welcomed their fourth grandchild and third grandson to the family.

**Barbara Griffa**, Orange, N.J., extends her appreciation to her family and neighbors who have helped her during the course of the quarantine. Barbara lost her husband Art, May 2, 2019, following 61 years of marriage. She enjoys communicating with her children and grandchildren via virtual media.

**Barry Kroll**, Madison, N.J. has been sheltering at home. The virus has interrupted plans to attend a very special wedding as well as vacation trips to Ireland and London. Barry believes that the country and the YMCA will stabilize and come back stronger.

**Ray Day**, Plainfield, N.J., was in Honolulu just before the coronavirus impacted the East Coast. He arrived home in time to shelter in and safely ride out the pandemic. Ray notes Plainfield YMCA closed as of May 2018, but outreach programs are continuing.

**Madeline Ford**, NYC, and her daughter Ashley while sheltering at home, are

**Elaine and Fred Edmonds**, Pomona, N.Y., were

sheltering at home, devote much of their time to exercise classes, physical therapy, and keeping up with family and friends via online media. She is looking forward to once again traveling to those special places.

**Bob Hastedt**, Staten Island, N.Y, spent time in Port St. Lucie, Fla., in March (just before the country's shut down), doing one of his favorite things: watching the New York Mets win four exhibition games.

on a 16-day cruise that became very eventful and getting back home to New York was a bit concerning. But, they're home and looking forward to getting back on the golf course.

**Ralph and Ronnie Christian**, from NYC, are sheltering at their summer home on Long Island, taking long walks on the beach and seeing beautiful sunsets. They enjoy the special Facetime sessions with their grandchildren.

## A Second Round Of Congratulations To Bonnie



*We mentioned the news in our last issue, but in case you missed it, here's the official proclamation of our own **Bonnie Mairs** induction into the YMCA Hall of Fame.*

### **Alice "Bonnie" Mairs (1936- )**

During her 36-year career with the YMCA, **Alice "Bonnie" Mairs** advanced the national and global mission and profile of the Y. Bonnie brought the world to camp. She expanded the European-based International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP) to include camps based throughout the U.S., and opened the ICCP to include participation of counselors from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. She ended her Y career in 2006 after having served for 15 years as the executive director of the International Branch YMCA for the YMCA of Greater New York. Bonnie served twice as the chair of the McBurney Morse Chapter of YMCA Alumni. She is chair of the Secours Speciaux, the World Alliance of YMCAs emergency fund.





You are automatically a member of the YMCA Alumni Travel Club and you and family and friends can join us on any of our 2021 trips. Just click on the logo for details. Bon Voyage.



Visit our YMCA Alumni website often. It's jam-packed with information about our organization. Be sure to check out the Datebook with up-to-date info on all chapter events. You may want to visit if you are traveling in the region. It's all there for you. Just click on the image above.

## McBurney-Morse Chapter YMCA Alumni



Co-Presidents: **Bonnie Mairs** and **Ralph Christian**  
Treasurer: **Kurt Kaboth**

Visit our YMCA Alumni Website

*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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