

The Marston Chapter Grapevine

Summer 2019

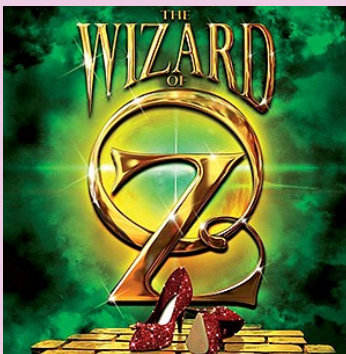


Greetings!

Our Spring event was a great success thanks to **Gary Wegener's** planning. We had 16 alumni attend a meeting at **Camp Marston** for a tour, lunch and hike. Associate Executive Director **Simon Hanse**, was a wonderful tour guide. We all were impressed with all the camp improvements. We were served a delicious lunch in the new dining hall.



Lake Jessop was fully stocked and full to the brim thanks to all the rain we had this season. Several from the group decided to hike to **Camp Raintree** to see the animals...pigs, rabbits, goats, and more. The horses do not come on site until Summer.



Hope to see many of you at our **Summer Musical Event Sunday, July 28** for the 2 p.m. performance of *"The Wizard of Oz"* Please email [Bea Halk](#) for more information about the play and dinner option at **Venetian Italian Restaurant** after the production.

I would like to welcome our new members: **Pam Dernbach (Robert)**, **Pattie Griffin (Steve)**, **Kathleen Hartshorne** and **Margo**

Stoutenburg (Jules Sjöe).

I Want to thank **Steve Mott** and **Karen Kohl** for representing our **Marston Chapter** at the **YMCA Alumni Reunion '19** Sept. 24-26 in **Louisville, Ky.** You still have time to register as this will be another time to connect with other Y-Alumni. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.



Oscar Escalada suffered a severe stroke three weeks ago; his left side was affected and is now in therapy and treatment. Your prayers are welcome.

Continue our **service** to others. Opportunities for service locally is part of the **YMCA Alumni** experience. Your skills and interest are welcome at any level.

[Sam Wurtzbacher](#), President

Photos: Top: We'll watch the Wizard later this month; bottom left -- Sam; Below: members at Camp Marston.



Our Bea Halk Heads Into YMCA Hall Of Fame

Marston member Bea Halk has been chosen for induction into the **National YMCA Hall of Fame**. Congratulations Bea! She will be inducted this month at the **YMCA Assembly** in Anaheim.

Inclusion in the **National YMCA Hall of Fame** is one of the highest honors the YMCA can bestow. It is a well-deserved recognition of her years of outstanding leadership and service.



Bea was nominated and supported by a group of colleagues who believed that her work and contribution to the Y reflected a level of excellence and national impact worthy of being in the "Hall". The National YMCA Hall of Fame is located on the campus of Springfield College in Springfield Ma.

Bea Halk pioneered modern day human resources in the YMCA. She gave leadership at a critical time in our history as Ys began transitioning to more formal human resources systems that supported their strategic objectives. She led the way in moving all Ys from a transactional, even clerical, view of the HR to a more strategic approach that incorporated best practices to achieve organizational objectives.

Bea gave leadership in the shaping of modern-day human resources strategies and practices for Ys of all sizes throughout the Movement so that they might better strengthen the communities they serve. She has a Masters of Science degree from Springfield College and was its commencement speaker in 1998.

Look for a salute to **Bea** and three other current **YMCA Alumni** members being inducted into the Hall of Fame in the printed issue of

We'll All Miss Walt Griese



Walter Frederick Griese, Jr., 14-year resident of Temecula, Calif. passed peacefully April 4, 2019 after a 18- month battle with throat cancer. He was 78.

Walt was born and raised in **Milwaukee**, Wis; his family lifelong members of **Sherman Park Lutheran Church** there; he is a graduate of **University of Wisconsin** with a B.S. in Economics.

His YMCA career spanned 42 years including his college days. It began in his hometown of **Milwaukee** in 1963. He moved on to **Wausau**; **Newton, Iowa** and **Greater St. Louis, Mo.** where he was Operations V.P., MRC Director and District Executive.

His was as National Field Consultant with **Y-USA**, based in **Chicago** where he advised YMCAs in rural **Ohio** cities. Walt was a "people person" always striving to bring out the best in everyone; always warm and welcoming; he was a peacemaker and would go to great lengths to avoid confrontation.

He married **Verna** (Hartman) from St. Louis and they lived in **Marysville, Ohio** until **Walt** retired in 2005 and they moved to the **Temecula Valley**.



News Along The Marston Grapevine...



and explore the Caribbean.

Piper and Toni Haynes: So far, 2019 has been one of those up and down years that all of us retirees, as seniors, go through. At the beginning of the year **Toni** and I were in a funk, we still missed our beloved Golden Retriever, **Jackson**, who passed away last year, the pain in my knees from arthritis were killing me and the weather in San Diego was, well, horrible.

We pulled out of the funk by getting a beautiful semi rescue Golden named **Tucker**. He has given us much happiness. I also was lucky to have a good group of friends I sail with every Friday and, as a team, we decided to go to **Grand Cayman**, rent a large sailboat

Toni finally convinced me to deal with the knee problem and I will have knee replacement surgery in September. We have rented a house on the Russian River for some kayaking, wine tasting, and family fun before the surgery. *(Photo: Capt. Piper in the Caribbean)*

Judy and Sam Wurtzbacher: We traveled throughout the island of Tasmania and New Zealand in May. Our Y friends **Bob** and **Judy**

Shafer were our trip planners for the first 21 days, starting in **Melbourne** then flying to **Tasmania** and finishing in **Auckland, New Zealand**. We took the last 10 days to travel the South Island in a camper van zig-zagging across the island to both coasts. Our highlight was taking a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier in **Queenstown, New Zealand** is a beautiful country with the friendliest people.



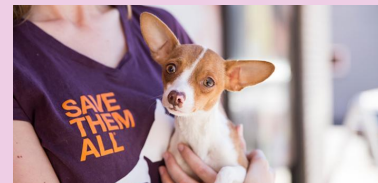
Bea Halk: One of my "bucket list" items was to someday go to Spain in hopes of looking into some of my ancestry. Instead my niece and I had a wonderful two-week adventure (partly tour and partly on our own). We started in Madrid and proceeded south visiting major cities then north ending in Barcelona. We then headed to the Basque country spending most of our time in Bilbao and San Sebastian. It is difficult to pin point our favorite areas but needless to say we enjoyed it all specially the Iberian ham, paella and of course the vino.

Rick Riehman: I traveled with four friends 12,171 km last spring to **Zarqa, Jordan** on a journey to bring hope, resources and God's love to hurting Jordanians and Syrians. We visited 10 families and heard many heart wrenching life stories of those who fled from Syria to Jordan; just short of either being killed or captured.



It's one of the great tragedies of our times. However, our expression of love to the Muslims opened many hearts and doors for conversations and conversions. We left the people of this desolate country with optimism and a mindset that the God of the Bible loves them and has a plan for their lives. A few received the gift of salvation and assurance of a better life to come. The needs of these people are never ending but so are God's mercy and grace.

Steve Mott and Karen Kohl: We spent our annual volunteer time in May at **Best Friends Animal Sanctuary** near Kanab, Utah. We were at **Horse Haven, Dog Town, Cat World, and Wild Friends** - all areas for animal rescues and rehab.



We took a trip East in May to visit with Karen's nephew and family where great-nephew, Henry, graduated from high school in Charlottesville, Va. Also spent some time in Wilmington, Del., where Karen grew up. Traveled up to Plainsboro, N.J., to visit with Steve's older daughter, Heather, who works for Johnson & Johnson in Princeton.

While there, also took in the Broadway production of *"Ain't Too Proud, the story of the Temptations"*. Another of Karen's great nephews is a

part of the Broadway show cast. We had dinner with him in between the matinee and evening performance. The play received 12 Tony nominations. Heading to the YMCA Alumni Reunion '19 in late September.



Y Friends On The Go: Victor and Judy Botello, Steve and Denise Rowe, and Sam and Judy Wurtzbacher headed south for a 10-day vacation in Mexico in April. First stop was the charming town of **San Miguel**

de Allende, where we climbed hilly cobblestone streets to breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside; enjoyed local music in the lively central plaza; sampled the gourmet food and drink.

From there we flew to **Cancun** and drove south to the little settlement of **Akumal**, where we had rented a couple of condos right on the beach. One day we drove to the magnificent ancient Mayan ruin of **Tulum**, and another day some of us went for a swim in a local fresh water cenote (natural sink hole).

The Small YMCA World



Many of you knew **Myron Lewis** very well and most everyone else knows of him by his reputation as the General Secretary/CEO of the **San Diego County YMCA**.

I spent many years with the Greater **Cleveland, Ohio YMCA** before I became the CEO in **Long Island, N.Y.** and then began my work with the **Armed Services YMCA** here in San Diego. But this “small world” story begins in Cleveland.

When I was in the third grade, **William V. Cumler**, the local Y branch Executive Director, knocked on the door of our apartment and talked my mother into letting me go to Y camp, for free, as long as I sold a few cases of the awful soap that the Y was selling at the time, instead of cookies or candy. Well, I went to camp that year and the next year and the next nine years after that, five of which I was a camp employee. This was the start of my more than 75-year association with the YMCA and I am eternally grateful to Mr. Cumler who started it all for me.

Cumler had two sons, both of whom I knew as older, casual acquaintances. But here's where the Y world got smaller. Young Bill Cumler was William T. Cumler, while his dad (and my Y mentor) was William V. Cumler. Fast forward a few years and I was the Executive Director of the West Shore branch in Cleveland and at regional Y meetings I became re-acquainted with William T. Cumler, who was a branch executive and then the Associate General Secretary of the Canton, Ohio Y.

Well, the Canton General Secretary decided to make a career move and my mentor's son became the General Secretary in Canton, where he served, with distinction until retirement.

That career move for the Canton General Secretary was made by Myron Lewis who became the General Secretary/CEO/President of the San Diego County YMCA, until his

retirement.

By the time I arrived in San Diego, Myron had been retired for some time, but I did have a chance to get to know him better and to reminisce about the good old days in Ohio. I could fill up this newsletter with "Small Y World" stories like this and I bet that most of you can do the same thing! Start writing!

--Bill Parkhurst

ANOTHER YEAR YOUNGER...



May: Barbara Schmidt 5/22

June: Rick Rieham 6/4, Steve Totten 6/5,
Bill Davis 6/13, Gerry Martin 6/26

July: Bill Parkhurst 7/16, Roger Martin
7/20

August: Rich Collato 8/12, Barb
Parkhurst 8/20, Bea Halk 8/22, Bruce Barr 8/30

Traveling Made Easy: With YMCA Alumni

Register Now For 2019-2020 Travel: Once again, look now as sign-ups continue for the Travel Club's exciting journeys: Christmas Market Rhine River Cruise (Dec. 2019); Colors of Provence River Cruise (April); America's Parks and Memorials (May); Norway's Fjords and Ireland and Iceland Ocean Cruises (May-June); Republic of Georgia (Sept.); Portugal's River of Gold River Cruise (Oct.), and Canyon Country Adventure (Oct.)



REUNION '19: It's Opening Night on the Louisville Belle, great workshops, tours to Churchill Downs and the Buffalo Trace Distillery, Louisville Slugger Factory, Included are full hot breakfasts and complimentary evening receptions, a great all-suite hotel and much, much more.

Watch for details. Still time to register; Click [here](#).



Have You Made Your 2019 EAF Contribution Yet? Click [Here](#)

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Click on name in [blue](#) to send email.

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

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