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Subject: Here's Your November 'Nor'Easter'
Date: January 23, 2020 at 12:36 PM
To: caltschul@icloud.com



ymca
ALUMNI

The Nor'Easter

New England Chapter E-Letter
January 2020

Hello Craig,

Mary and I have been doing a bit of traveling since our last **Nor'Easter** was produced, including a nice trip above the Arctic Circle in northern Norway in search of the famed Northern Lights.

We can now say we have visited the northernmost city in the world (Hammerfest) as well as the southernmost (Ushuaia), and both the **Arctic** and the **Antarctic** as well as all the continents. (Thank you, YMCA Retirement Fund!)

So, what's the connection of the above



paragraph with **YMCA Alumni**? Well the common thread is travel. **YMCA Alumni's Travel Club** (of which you are automatically a member and for which there are no dues!) is providing lots of opportunities for "Y folks" to travel together - internationally as well as domestically - on ocean cruises, river cruises, and land-based tours. Why don't you sign up for the Travel Club's bimonthly newsletter "**Going Places**" to stay abreast of all opportunities as well as breaking news. It's free too! *(See story below with subscription button.)*

I urge you to come to some or all the Regional Luncheon Gatherings being offered this winter. Your friends would love to see you, and you need to get out of the house anyway. Thanks to Nancy, Laurie, and all the Gathering hosts for putting these together -- now all we need to make them successful is you.

Lou Falk,
Interim President

PS: *If you haven't renewed your 2020 YMCA Alumni membership yet, now is the time -- or actually you're in the grace period, so do it today. Click the button below.*

[CLICK TO RENEW](#)

Success Of Homebuilding Project Means Getting Involved Now

Although the **2020 Dominican Homebuilding Project**, sponsored and conducted by our chapter of **YMCA Alumni**, is still five months away, the success of this annual project is determined by our efforts right now. You soon will receive a letter by "snail mail" requesting your financial support as costs have risen in the nine years we have been doing this project. If you have given in the past, please continue and add a little extra if you can. If this will be your first year of contributing, we thank you for taking the place of those who contributed in the past but have passed away. Checks are welcomed as are pledges to be fulfilled by **April 15**.



Your Dominican Republic Homebuilding Fundraising Committee of **Chuck Goding, Bob Hoffman, Mike Sherman, Judy Stearns, Risa Filkoff and Joyce Sypher** want you to be on the lookout for the letter. As we enter our 10th year, we plan to build new homes for families #16 and #17 and your financial support is critical to the success.

We are now in the recruitment phase for volunteers to travel to the **Dominican Republic** to actually help build these new homes for the humble residents of the **YMCA Village** in Don Gregorio.

You will join a contingent of **Springfield College** students and many past veterans who return each year. Jobs are available for *all* ages, and skill and ability levels. The dates are **May 23-30**. You won't regret being part of this life-changing experience. Children and responsible grandchildren are welcome too.

Need more info on giving or volunteering? email [Lou Falk](#).

Winter Shenanigans In Westerly



**Nancy Hoffman, Marsha Bowman,
Mary Falk, and Nancy Bonnell**



Cliff and Judy Miss

A most congenial group of members gathered last month for our annual **Holiday Shenanigans** event. The festivities were held at the **Westerly, R.I. YMCA** and hosted by **Laurie Garbacz** and **Nancy Bonnell** who also prepared a delicious and bountiful lunch for everyone!

Skip Raymond generously donated a Vermont Gift Basket which he auctioned off for the benefit of EAF. **Mary Falk** outbid everyone with a winning donation of \$110.

The **Yankee Swap** produced lots of laughs. and while everyone went

The winner's wrap presents were elegant, and while every one took home with a cool gift, the most sought-after gift was a bottle of wine won by....well we're not gonna say, but he has the same last name as the auction winner.

We were pleased to welcome **Duffy Brent** (or was it Brent Duffy?) to his first event with us, and we hope he returns for many more!
The **Mosses** were with us and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary that day. It was nice to see **Evan** and **Marti Page** back among the active Alumni and Evan was congratulated for his selection as an officer with **WFYR** (World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees). It was good to catch up with **John Coduri** (who used to own the Westerly Y back in the day). **Eleanor Murphy** and her sis **Ro** were with us in spirit as Ro had a bad cold.

The **Shenanigans** concluded with a tour of this very beautiful YMCA facility led by Y staff.



Skip's Vermont Gift Basket



Time to eat.



Polly LaLiberte and Laurie Garbacz

Get The Calendar Out And Join Us



Our **2020** series of winter **YMCA Alumni Luncheons** kicks off soon, and we want to

Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Envelope Stuffing Extravaganza: Join us at the **East Hartford YMCA**, 770 Main Street to help stuff fundraising envelopes for our homebuilding project. Hear from **Harold Sparrow**, President/CEO of the **Greater Hartford YMCA**. Lunch hosted by **Chuck Goding**. Cost is \$19.95 pp.

February 5 – Annual Ski Trip: Join **Nancy Bonnell** and **Laurie Garbacz** at the 2020

on soon, and we want to see **YOU** at one or more! And not only you, but anyone else you'd like to bring with you—like a fellow retiree who hasn't joined YMCA

Alumni yet (even though their first year is totally free), or a current Y employee who might join us in the future.

Jan. 15 – Winter

Luncheon: Come to **Camp Hazen YMCA**, 204 West Main Street in Chester, Ct., hosted by Alan Hurst, and featuring **Edward Shornik** of the **Novosibirsk Siberia SMILE YMCA** as speaker. Lunch begins at noon and the cost is \$19.95. Want to share a ride? Email [Lou Falk](#). To register, click [HERE](#).

Early Career of the 2020 YMCA Alumni Ski Day at Mt. Sunapee for skiing and more. Welcome all skiers, boarders and non-skiers alike. Meet the group at **Mount Sunapee Resort**, 1398 NH RTE 103, Newbury, N.H. 03255 at noon (second floor, lodge). Click [HERE](#) for details and registration info.

April 6 - Springfield College:

Activities will include: **YMCA Hall of Fame** tour, lunch with YMCA student ambassadors and **YMCA Stitzer Center Museum** tour with Archivist **Jeff Monseau**. Erin Friedman, Director of YMCA Relations at Springfield College will be our host for the day. No cost. Details to come.



April 28-30 - NEYA Reunion Retreat in Boston

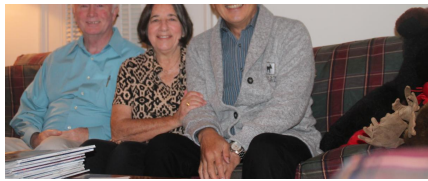
We need your input...three days, too much? Other sites we should consider? Plans are in the works for a Reunion Retreat in Boston April 28, 29, 30 at the YMCA Constitution Inn, located at 150 Third Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02129. Possible activities to include: Visits

to Faneuil Hall, the Boston Waterfront, USS Constitution Museum, tour of Fenway Park, hike the Freedom Trail or a Boston Duck Boat Tour! Details have yet to be determined so please email all requests and ideas to [Nancy LaRue Bonell](#) - or call 508-965-9507. We will send out links to register and hotel information in early 2020.

Phil Dwyer Meets To Discuss Sri Lanka Help



Evan Page, Kohei Yamaha (both WFYR Vice Chairs of USA and Japan respectively) met with WFYR President **Philin Dwyer** to discuss



with YNPA President **Phil Dwyer** to discuss helping YMCAs in **Sri Lanka** create a pension system for YMCA staff. (Photo: **Phil** and **Deb Dwyer** and **Kohei**).

Caring Committee Needs Your Help



Purpose: To more fully connect members of our Chapter and to build a deeper sense of belonging that will result in a more connected Chapter.

How: Make personal contacts with each member four times per year through phone calls, emails, and/or personal visits. To encourage participation at Chapter events.

Learn of needs, concerns, celebrations and significant life events of our members and to share those as appropriate with others. Insure that new members to the Chapter are recognized, welcomed and personally invited to participate.

Process: Committee members will act as Ambassadors and be responsible for managing the relationship with 10 members four times per year and for reporting those contacts. All members of the Chapter will be encouraged to report good news, bad news and suggestions to the Committee Chair. A spreadsheet of all member contacts will be updated on a quarterly basis by the Committee Chair.

Results: A more connected Chapter that serves our whole membership, adds value to an individual's membership in the Chapter, increases member retention and new member growth and to ensure that all feel a continued part of the Y family.

If you are interested in working with Karen Leslie and her committee, contact Karen at: kleslie626@gmail.com

Subscribe To 'Going Places' and Start Packing



Your **YMCA Alumni Travel Club** is about to unveil some exciting new travel experiences for 2021 and there's still time to register for several of the 2020 trips, though two are already

sold out.

Visit the **Official YMCA Alumni Travel Club Information Center** by clicking **HERE**.

A brand new Travel Club newsletter-- **GOING PLACES** -- will begin publishing six times a year starting Jan. 15. It's free and contains lots of news, videos, fun and interesting tidbits about our trips. You can subscribe if you click the button below.

SUBSCRIBE TO 'GOING PLACES'

New England Chapter Of YMCA Alumni



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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."

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