

Messenger Bits from the Messer-Brandenburg Chapter



April 2025

Spring

Co-President's Update - Wray Howard & Dave Phelps

Hoping this message finds all of you enjoying the early spring weather. It's been a bit of an up and down spring so far with some days in the 60's and the next in the 30's! Welcome to the Midwest!

We want to share some upcoming events for our Chapter in both Illinois and Wisconsin so you can get the dates on your calendar and hopefully will plan to attend if you can. We thank Angie Rester and Cathy Adams who have been working on identifying program activities and dates for us in the months ahead.

Also, see the report on the "Reunion at Sea" which was a great success and several members from our Chapter were able to attend.

As you are aware, Linda Dean has been very active and has had a leadership role in the National Service Project. That project is almost complete but there is still some work to be done. If you are interested in participating this spring or fall, see the information included in this newsletter or contact Linda if you have questions.

We've also included the latest report on our Chapter membership statistics from Dave Patterson. If for some reason you have not yet renewed, please consider doing so. You can find the renewal form online at <https://ymcaalumni.org/renew>.

We look forward to seeing you all in the coming months.

Yours in Service,
Dave Phelps and Wray Howard
Chapter Co-Presidents

Board Members	Cathy Adams	Linda Dean	Jim Furrie	Rick Gattoni
Denny Handrow	Wray Howard	D'Ann Lagerblade	Denny Mohrman	Pat Nelson
David Phelps	Angie Rester	Martha Rolf	Larry Stinson	Jan Tullock
				Dianne Warrick

Welcome New Members

Warren and Ann Welsh, Walter Henebry and Nancy Owens.

National Service Project Update...

Help Us Cross the Finish Line!

The construction of the tiny home village at YMCA of the Seven Council Fires is almost complete, and we need 30 more volunteers to help us finish strong! The village, consisting of 4 beautiful tiny homes, will provide single mothers on the Cheyenne River Reservation with much-needed transitional housing.

Volunteering on this project is fun, fast-paced and fulfilling. The YMCA Alumni tiny home project not only utilizes your skills and labor to build safe, affordable homes but also offers an opportunity to become educated in Native American culture.

Volunteer crews will be helping with tasks such as installing flooring, kitchen cabinets, appliances, furniture, and lighting and plumbing fixtures. Other tasks include landscaping, painting, and trimming windows and doors. No construction experience is required!

We still need volunteers for these 2 work waves:

Wave 2: May 13 – 20

Wave 3: September 9 – 16

To register for one of these work waves [click here](#).



To receive a document with more detailed information (such as the daily schedule and FAQs) contact richwallis@comcast.net

Join us in making a real difference!



YMCA Alumni Reunion at the Sea; January 26 to February 2, 2025

Over 120 retired Y friends did a cruise for the bi-annual reunion of YMCA Alumni Association. Carmelita Gallo led the trip as its chairperson. Some workshops and social gatherings were organized on the ship and there were three ports which provided lots of possible excursions.

One of the committees of the national Alumni Association is the Travel Club. Bill Hooson (in the 80's worked in Milwaukee) serves as chair. There is an extensive listing of possible trips to join with other alumni. Go Travel serves as the travel agent. Visit all the trips:

<https://www.ymcaalumnitravelclub.org/>



Chicago Area Y Alumni Luncheon

Chicago Y Alumni met April 9 for lunch and conversation at Manny's in Chicago. It's always great to reconnect and reminisce!

Front row: Dorothy Burns-Hicks, Liz Andrews, June Redmond, Cathy Adams.
Back row: Kim Majka, Steve Dahlin, Perry Gunn, Linda Dean.



A social gathering is being planned for almost every month and even one event for 2026! Be sure to check out these opportunities to meet, learn and visit with Y Alumni friends! Save the Date and be sure to email the organizer so that they are aware that there is some interest in the activity! More details will follow closer to the events.

Farm Discovery Center & City Park Band Concert

Wednesday, June 11

Lunch 12:30 - 2 pm, Farm Tour 2 - 3 pm Located in Plover, WI

Happy Hour/Dinner on your own

City Park Band Concert Located 5 miles from Plover, in Stevens Point, WI

Lunch - Join anytime between 12:30 & 2 pm for lunch at Food+Farm at your own expense

Tour is 2 - 3 pm and there is time following to explore until 4:30 pm - \$15

Drive 5 mi. To Stevens Point for happy hour and dinner and hotel check-in for those staying overnight (hotel options to follow in email with more information)

For more info email Angie Rester

resterassociates@aol.com



Volo Museum and Social at home of David & Nancy Phelps

Wednesday, July 23

Museum Tour - 10 - 2 pm, 27582 Volo Village Rd. Volo, IL 60073 (815) 385-3644

Social 2-6 pm, David & Nancy Phelps, Island Lake, IL

Museum Tour: 10 - 2 pm - ages 13-64 \$24.95, 65+ & Military \$22.95

Experience over 50 exhibits and over 10,000 mechanical marvels! The attractions include over 50 Hollywood vehicles, Jurassic Gardens, etc .

Social: 2 - 6 pm. It is a short 10-15 minute drive to David & Nancy Phelps Food & Drink included, no charge.

For more info email Angie Rester

resterassociates@aol.com



Lakefront Brewery Tour & Milwaukee Riverboat Cruise



Thursday, August 20

Lunch 10-12 pm, Brewery Tour 12:30-1:30 pm & Riverboat Cruise 2-3:30 pm

Located in Milwaukee, WI

Lunch - Join anytime between 10 & 12 pm at the Lakefront Brewery at your own expense. Brewery Tour is 12:30-1:30 pm and includes beer sampling and souvenir pint glass - \$16 Riverboat Cruise - 2 - 3:30 pm - Times are approximate and subject to change slightly \$34 per person

You can be out of Milwaukee before any commuter traffic or stay overnight and join others for dinner in any of the great restaurants

For more info email Angie Rester
resterassociates@aol.com

Trip to the Morton Arboretum



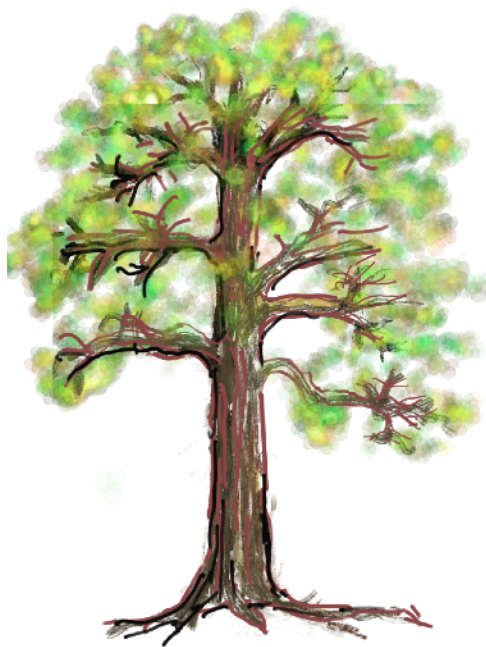
October 9, 2025 from 10 AM to 2 PM

Located in Lombard Illinois

The Morton Arboretum is an internationally recognized, tree-focused botanic garden and research center. 1700 acres of tree-filled landscapes, multi-species of trees, prairie lands, nature at its finest. Fall is one of their highlighted times.

It has several opportunities for hiking, touring opportunities as well as places for pure relaxation. We could also partake of their tram ride getting a wonderful view of the arboretum.

Admission for Seniors is approximately \$11.95. If you are a member it is free.
Ginkgo Restaurant - freshly prepared food using sustainable practices at reasonable costs.
Shop at the Arboretum Store.



For more info email Cathy Adams
cathleen.adams@comcast.net

Messer-Brandenburg Y Alumni Annual Meeting & Social - Tuesday, October 21 Social & Meeting Wednesday, October 22



Our Annual Meeting and Fellowship is October 21 and 22 in Lake Geneva Wisconsin. An excursion, social and dinner is being planned, in addition to the meeting on the 22nd.

Veteran's Day Gathering - Fri., November 14th - 10 am - 2 pm



Come Thursday to stay overnight to enjoy Starved Rock State Park & dinner out with Y Alumni friends!



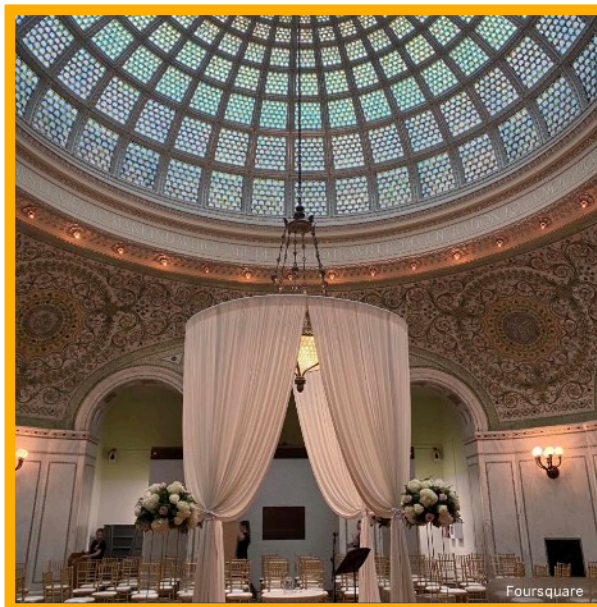
Join us at the Historic Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica, IL. We will gather in the Great Hall in the lodge for some social time beginning at 10:00 am. At noon we will move to the Porch Room to order off the menu. Details on our afternoon program are still being finalized. In addition, we are going to offer an opportunity for chapter members to arrive on Thursday and spend the night in a lodge room or cabin.

For more info email Dennis Mohrman
dennis.mohrman@gmail.com

Chicago Cultural Center Tour

78 East Washington St., Chicago, IL
April 23, 2026

Opened in 1987, it is a prominent landmark operated by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs. Every year the cultural center features programs and exhibitions covering a wide range of arts, including literary and visual. The building is art-deco style with interiors that are ornate and regal. Of particular interest is the two stained-glass domes within the building. We will have lunch somewhere close, TBD



For more info email Cathy Adams
cathleen.adams@comcast.net