

Pacific Northwest

OLD GUARD NEWS
ALLEN-STONE CHAPTER

Coming EVENTS

April 2022



**Come with
us to
Coeur
d'Alene, ID
June 20-23,
2022**

Join us next summer for 3 nights and 2 days of summer fun in beautiful **Coeur d'Alene ID**. We'll have some quality time together while **enjoying...**

A beer and wine reception overlooking the Spokane River.

A sunset dinner cruise on
Lake Coeur d'Alene.

A tour of the Museum of North Idaho.

Dinner at Cedar's Floating Restaurant.

And in between these group **activities** there's plenty to **do, see** and explore on your own or with **other Alumni, including...**

Walking or biking along the Centennial Trail.

Shopping in downtown **Coeur d'Alene**.

Walking the boardwalk or having a beverage at the **Coeur d'Alene resort**.

Visit McEuen Park and take an easy hike around Tubbs Hill.

Hike at Mineral Ridge for a gorgeous panoramic view of **Lake Coeur d'Alene**.

Tour the Buck Knives factory in Post Falls

Visit the downtown art **galleries** in **Coeur d'Alene**.

Rent a kayak and paddle on the big lake or the Spokane River.

Drive into Spokane and visit the newly renovated Riverfront Park

Questions?

**Call or email Rich Wallis
at 509-993-8159 or
richwallis@comcast.net**



We will be staying at Red Lion Templin's on the River in Post Falls ID. A short 8-minute **drive from Coeur d'Alene**



Sunset Dinner Cruise

Enjoy a 2-hour sunset dinner cruise featuring exquisite cuisine and unforgettable views on shimmering **Lake Coeur d'Alene**.

Coeur d'Alene, ID General Information

Lodging: Red Lion Templin's on the River in Post Falls, ID.

Room rate - \$179 ...or **\$199 for a river view**, \$259 for a suite

The deadline for room reservations is **May 10**. Our room block will be released after this date.
Call **208-773-1611** to make a reservation.

Press "0" to get the front desk and **tell them you're with the YMCA Retirees group**.

Fee: \$210 per person - **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MAY 10**

This includes the reception on the first night, admission to the Museum of North Idaho, and all 3 dinners: opening **dinner at Templin's Current Restaurant**, closing dinner at **Cedar's Floating Restaurant**, and the **sunset dinner cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene**.

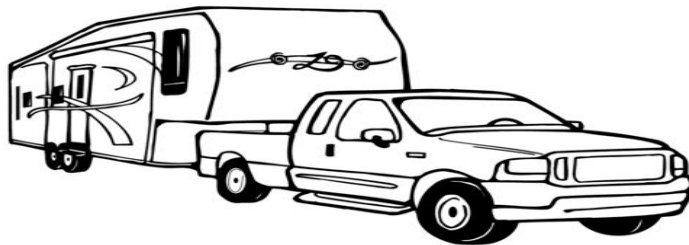
Dates: Monday June 20 (hotel check-in time is 3:00 PM)
Thursday June 23 (hotel checkout time is 12:00 PM)

Please Note:

If you are mailing in your registration for the Coeur d'Alene event, please also email Jim Leigh at jimFleigh@gmail.com as he maybe RVing and unable to receive snail mail until he gets home.

Registration Form on Page 12

**RV
Event
July 25-28,
2022**



**Cape Kiwanda
RV Resort
Pacific City,
Oregon**

Twelve Y Alumni will gather along the coast in July for a few days of fellowship. Participants will receive more details about meals and activities in June. Jan Leigh will be in charge.



SEABECK 2022 - ALWAYS KEEP LEARNING

Jill Hallin is heading up the program plans for this years "main event" at the Seabeck retreat September 12-14. Aside being able to stay in the **new** Pines, there will be other new presentations and possibly something we did not know about the Seabeck grounds that we stroll on our visits each year. Also, there will be a update on the Sioux Y as well as a speaker on the development and installation of the metal Haiku plaques at Seabeck,. Christy Collins will tell about her involvement in planning the Presidential Library for former President of Liberia, Ellen-Johnson Sirleaf.

Keep the dates open, details and registration will be in the July newsletter

ALLEN-STONE 2020-2021 OFFICERS**Presidents** – Gary & Lony Huff

glhuff2@olypen.com

Vice Presidents –**Treasurer** – Jim Leigh

jimfleigh@gmail.com

Past Presidents – Tom Horsley & Cheri Brennan, thomaschorsley@outlook.com**ALLEN-STONE LEADERSHIP****Historian** – Don Leak

donleak@webtv.net

World Service Chair – Tom Horsley

thomaschorsley@outlook.com

EAF Chair -- Bill Heathman

BRHeathman@gmail.com

Membership, National Service Project

– Mike Robinson

mikiee.mike@gmail.com

International Service Corp-Mike Ellis

Ellism1949@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor – Jane Rosi-Pattisonpattisonjane1@gmail.com***President's Message*****Look what we have done in the first 3 months of 2022**

We've raised a lot of money for the Sioux Y National Service Project. The goal is to raise \$600,000 over 3 years to build a village of tiny homes and two outlying program centers at the Sioux YMCA. We started fundraising in mid-January. Under the leadership of Dave Mercer, who recruited a team of 8 people to make contacts, our chapter raised over \$59,825 in pledges and cash. Nationally, the total went over \$510,000 for all 17 chapters. What an accomplishment in a short time! I had the privilege of talking with 12 of my "old" colleagues and they were generous. As a result, the building of the first tiny home starts this spring. Some of our people are signed up in the first couple of waves of construction.



We went to Hawaii. In February, 15 of us had a wonderful time on the island of Kauai. And no, we didn't use the fundraising money for the trip! Our host, Don Anderson, led us around the beautiful island on various excursions. 80 degree weather every day was hard to take but we braved it out. We had lots of fun laughing, reminiscing, swimming and laying around the pool. Half of our group was from the Allen-Stone chapter and half from the McCoy chapter. Don & Sue Anderson have graciously agreed to host us again in February 2024 on their island of Oahu. Lee & Tracy Muckey will work with them. I'm already looking forward to that. Mark your calendars.

Merger explored. While in Hawaii, we talked about whether we should merge the two chapters. Fred Stickney, president of the McCoy chapter, and I have been kicking this around for awhile. Our chapters do everything together now and communicate everything with one another. So we are exploring whether we should be one chapter. A proposal, outlining how it would work, will be tested with leaders of both chapters. The combined chapter would include approximately 680 Y retirees, 122 of which are contributing members or dues-paying members. So we would be a large chapter, geographically and in numbers. Allen-Stone covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii. McCoy covers Northern California and Reno.

Luncheon hosts. Given our geography, I would like to ask you to consider hosting a restaurant luncheon with a few other Y-retirees. The only agenda would be to connect and enjoy one another. I find it's fun to connect with former colleagues and new Y friends. Y people are fun! Keeping it simple, here is how it would work. Let me know that you are interested and willing. Email glhuff2@olypen.com. I will send you a list of Y-retirees in your area. Our membership chair, Mike Robinson, has created lists according to area. Or use your own list. You pick the date, time and restaurant. Contact a number of people on your list (your choice) and ask them to RSVP. When you know the number, contact the restaurant to make a reservation. Everyone pays for their own lunch. Then enjoy. And, let me know how it went.



Treasurer's Report

Jim Leigh

We are now up to 73 member units for the 2022 calendar year.

New members since our January newsletter.

Don & Susan Anderson, John & Debbie Ciabrone, Lee Graff, Phil & Pat Grimm, Kay Haines, Lorrie Hermanson, Rae Montgomery, Wayne & Patty Ray, Gary Reynolds, Robert Stivers-Apiki, Ada Taylor, Stephen & Margaret Tammaro, Rich Wallis and Michael & Shelly West.

If you believe you have not registered, email Jim Leigh at (jimFleigh@gmail.com) or call (253-219-0613)

WORLD SERVICE—ABOUT YMCA UKRAINE

As a global organization with a presence in 120 countries, the YMCA has deep roots in Ukraine, Russia, and many of the surrounding countries affected by the conflict currently unfolding. In Ukraine, there are 25 local YMCAs around the country reaching tens of thousands of youth and young adults each year through programs that support physical and mental health, enrichment and than 15,000 young leaders from Ukraine, Russia, and other countries in the region have engaged in critical Peace building and reconciliation efforts over the past 15 years.



HOW THE Y IS SUPPORTING THOSE IMPACTED BY THE CONFLICT

Through YMCA of the USA's World Service Campaign, the Y is partnering with YMCAs across Europe and around the world to provide critical support for youth, families and communities in need, including:

- Emergency support, including food, clothing, housing, transportation and psychosocial counseling for internally displaced people and Ukrainian refugees in Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.
- Coordination of regional response efforts and local, national and regional partnerships.
- Support to re-establish long-term peace and reconciliation, cooperation and youth programs between Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

With millions of displaced people and refugees coming out of Ukraine, financial resources are critically needed at this time. To support the Y's crisis response efforts in Ukraine, we encourage you to make a direct donation to YMCA of the USA's World Service Campaign today. With millions of displaced people and refugees coming out of Ukraine, financial resources are critically needed at this time.

To support the Y's crisis response efforts in Ukraine, we encourage you to make a direct donation to YMCA of the USA's World Service Campaign today. For the latest updates on the YMCA's crisis response efforts, visit ymca.org/Crisis-in-Ukraine.



YMCA Alumni serve across the globe

International Service Corps (ISC) is a program of YMCA Alumni. Members volunteer for short or relatively longer service stints and use their expertise to help YMCAs and their staffs and volunteers in other nations better serve their communities.

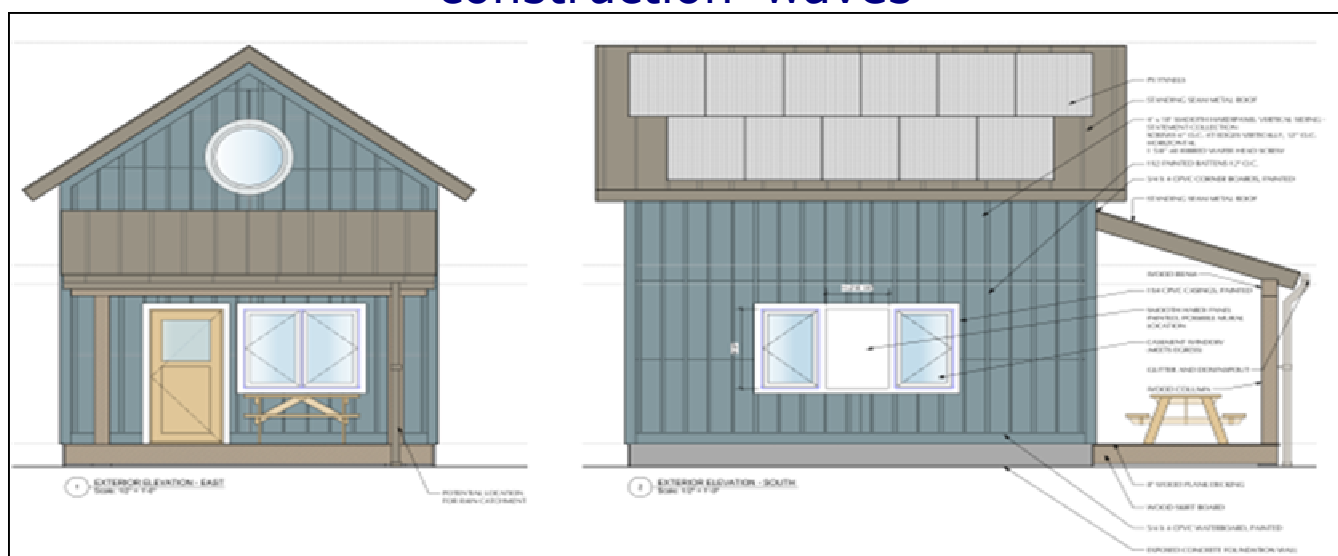
Go to <https://www.ymcaalumni.org> for more info.

Taken from the Connection: National News from YMCA Alumni - April 2022

Member campaign tops \$510,000 in first year toward 3-year goal of \$600,000



It's time to get to work; volunteers needed for construction 'waves'



The fundraising campaign among our members has ended for 2022. We have closed the first phase of our multi-year project having topped \$510,000 in cash and pledges toward our three-year goal of \$600,000.

This is a great achievement for which we can only say "Thank You." If you have been contacted and agreed to send in a donation, but have not yet done so, please complete the transaction right away.

The focus is changing from money-raising to "boots on the ground." It's time to physically get to work in Dupree, S.D. on what will be at least seven tiny homes and several "twigs" (small YMCA branches) over the coming years.

"During our careers, we were in the center of human service. If you want a new surge of relevance in your life, come join the National Service Project," says George Painter, chair of the Project Management a.k.a. "Boots on the Ground" Committee.

The first two "waves" of volunteers are set for **May 15-22** and **May 22-29**. There's still room to join us then, but the laser focus now is filling the remaining waves: **July 10-17; July 17-24; Oct. 23-30** and **Oct. 30-Nov. 6**.

This is a unique experience, for sure. We are building where weather, landscape and surprises can be challenging and luxury lodging or a convenience store is wishful thinking, but that makes it unique and fun.

If you are healthy and active, come join in. You do not need prior construction experience. We will provide training and a safe workplace environment.

Couples are welcome and there will be plenty of work for everyone. Detailed information is available on the **"Project"** page of the Virtual Case Statement, as is a link to register. www.tinyurl.com/wawokiye

MEMBER NEWS



Cheri Brennan and Tom Horsley took a quick trip to Phoenix in March to visit friends who are there for the month. A highlight was visiting the Desert Botanical Garden which is featuring an exhibit of Seattle's own Dale Chihuly, "Chihuly in the Desert".

Jane Rosi-Pattison along with 29 members of the Longview Ski Club spent five days enjoying the ski slopes of the iconic Sun Valley Resort. This resort was the first established destination ski area in the U.S. in 1936. It was necessary for me to sit in the Sun Valley Lodge and look out at the skating rink that Sonja Heny filmed "It Happened In Sun Valley" as well as visit the Duchin Lounge where Eddie Duchin played the piano. Even with a lack of snow, everyone hung on skiing down the hard packed slopes.



Standing on top of the world at 9,150 foot elevation!

Hard day on the slopes; pull me to the bus.



Dave and Joyce Mercer just got back from Hawaii with the AllenStone and McCoy chapter members. Had a great trip and stayed an extra week in Kauai to enjoy its multitude of pleasures. We were supposed to go to Brazil for a 3 week Amazon cruise the end of March, but it got canceled. Brazil problems or.....maybe they just didn't have enough passengers. Took a week in March and drove down to see the widow of Daves best man and friend from high school. (I actually knew his wife since 4th grade). He died a week ago of blood clots and complications. Also saw Daves' sister and brother in law during the trip. Home now until a Great Lakes cruise in June.

Jim and Jan Leigh had the pleasure of reuniting with a fellow

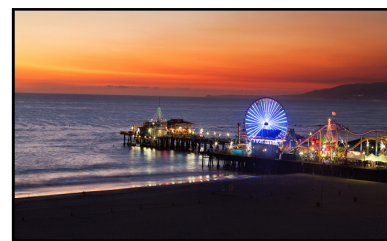
George Williams grad when Ron Kemalyan and his wife Caroline

came to ski in Bend. Ron graduated a year ahead of Jim and went on to work in the Los Angeles YMCA Association at East Valley, Crenshaw, and Wilshire branches.



Bill Heathman is residing in the Skilled Nursing of Heron's Key. He moved from 19 days in the hospital to the skilled nursing. Bill had covid beginning in January. He is improving with the help of physical therapy everyday. Each day he seems alert. In the hospital, he developed A Fib and pneumonia. The skilled nursing is very convenient to our apartment. I just walk down the hall and never change floors to his room. He eats in a dining area with other residents, so enjoys some conversations,

Mike and Sharon Robinson spent 10 days in Santa Monica assisting Mike's sister in decluttering a very small apartment, arranging for a new refrigerator, putting reflecting film on windows, reducing boxes of accumulated clutter collected over that last 26 years. As we all know, clutter is an amazing animal that takes on a life of it's own. Efforts included rearranging furniture along with earthquake protection and setting up a new smart TV. As always when we visit California there are restaurants to visit and a stage play to be enjoyed; visits to friends in Oceanside and family in Long Beach. Santa Monica is a lovely place to visit and we always enjoy a ride along the coast with a view of the ocean.



Diane and Rich managed to slip away for a 10-day trip in February. Our first stop was Phoenix where we participated in an informal gathering of Y retirees including several people I worked with at Y-USA. As always it was great to reconnect with old friends and colleagues.

Next, we headed north to Sedona, where we had never been, and were just blown away by the beauty of the area. I did a couple of great hikes while we were there and plan to return to the area in the future to explore it even more. And the last leg of our trip took us from the natural grandeur of Sedona to the glitz and glam-



our of Las Vegas where we visited some longtime friends, took in a few shows, and lost our allotted gambling money in record time.

When home in Spokane our time is occupied with all manner of grandkid activities – birthday parties, concerts, basketball and volleyball games, etc. – and volunteer jobs. This year I became trained as an AARP Foundation tax preparer and volunteer 1 or 2 days a week preparing tax returns for low-income seniors for free. It's sad seeing how little money many seniors live on...never have I been more grateful for the YMCA retirement fund.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the event in Coeur d'Alene this summer...don't forget to sign-up before May 10. Rich Wallis



April

Bob and Caroline Brooks

April 5th 36th

June

Bill & Ruth Heathman

June 12th 55th

Mike & Sharon Robinson

June 3rd 55th

NEW RETIREES

Anatoly Mayster 15 YRS

YMCA of Pierce & Kitsap Counties

Nancy Nelson 24 YRS

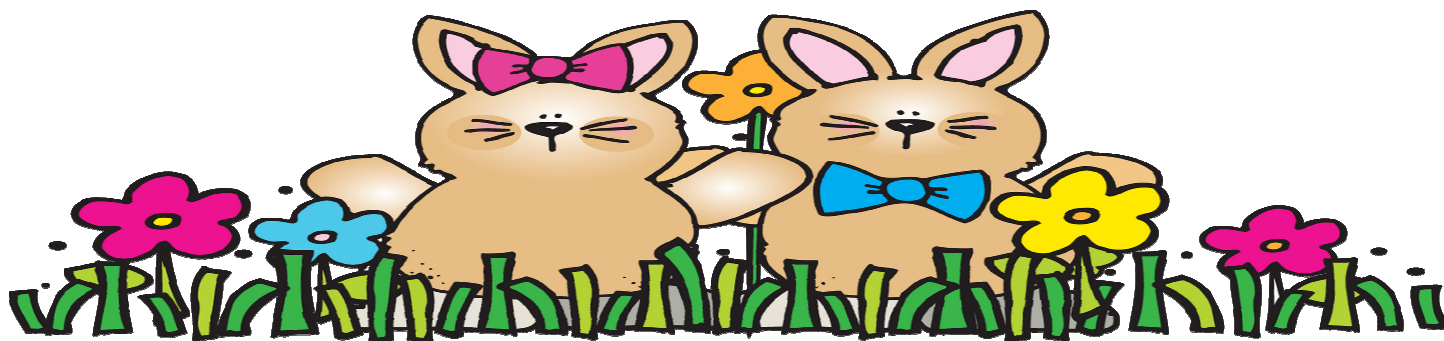
YMCA of Columbia -Willamette Assoc.

Debra Powell 16 YRS

YMCA Greater Seattle Health-Fitness Dir

DECEASED

Patrica Christenson - Coupeville, WA



KAUAI

It was sunny blue Hawaiian skies at a beautiful resort on Newhelili Bay in Kauai for the fifteen Y Retirees visiting. Not only were the grounds and biggest one level swimming pool on the Islands great, being on the ocean shore was a plus. One day was spent visiting a nearby succulent garden, a blow hole and the oldest town on the Islands, Koloa Town, once a sugar plantation. The next day was on a different part to take the boat up the Wileua River to the "Fern Grotto", a moss and plant laden spot that many young couples get married at, thus the Hawaiian Wedding song is always played and sang when visitors come. The shopping center "Coconut Grove" was the next stop thus named as it was once the site of coconut groves and famous for the filming of one of Elvis Presley's many movies taken on the Island.

The rest of the time was spent around the pool, walking the grounds that once were the Westins famous wild animal grounds and lagoons above the resort. Hurrican Iniki took it all out in 1992 and the lagoons are now part of the golf course.

Those attending were Gary & Lony Huff, Dave & Joyce Mercer, Jane Rosi-Pattison, Carol Haas, Craig Frericks, Lee & Jance Muckey, Chris Logan, Linda Whitten, Fred & Sally Stickney, Don & Sue Anderson.

It was decided to visit the Islands again in a couple of years.



Activities Update—Mike Robinson, Membership



There are some interesting and good things happening with Allen-Stone both locally and nationally in 2022.

1) Our **Chapter Membership** effort was a good success – 73 Units/120+ people.

2) **Sioux YMCA National Service Project** - Our Campaign Team – Dave Mercer, Tom Horsely, Gary Huff, Jim Leigh, Eric Nelson, Ralph Drake, Mike Robinson and Don Anderson – has had many conversations and raised both awareness of the Sioux YMCA and funds. Allen-Stone Chapter is in the top grouping nationally. Cheri Brennan is a member of the Public Relations/Marketing Committee and Mike Ellis is busy with the Volunteer Committee. So within the Sioux Project Allen-Stone has a full complement of volunteers working in many levels; and I'm also aware that there are at least 5 registered to go to the Sioux YMCA in Dupree, SD this next summer to help build.

3) **Gatherings** in Hawaii, Ashland Oregon & Coeur d'Alene Idaho too. Busy busy.

Gary Huff mentioned the **Ambassador Program** with YMCA Alumni in his President's Message. It is being tested in the Weatherford Chapter – and I've had conversations with them for our Chapter as well. This “will be neighborhood like gatherings”. Nothing formal, but it will be gatherings within geographical areas of our Chapter. We are very large – if not the largest in states involved; so getting to an event is an effort. This will be activities that will hopefully allow us fellowship, informally, around our region.

I will be calling on some to facilitate these gatherings. Ambassadors they will be – and potentially the next Ambassador will surface for the next event. And so on and so on. To gather in a restaurant for a couple hours of sharing stories of “yesterday” and stories of what's going on “today”. Let's try...

Our Chapter Roster has over 500 names – so we are going to see if we can bring more into an activity that is close by, short term, low commitment. And FUN.

Watch It's coming!

KAUAI Continued



We Remember:



Gary Wayman was a friend of all nonprofit organizations and worked most of his adult life raising millions of dollars for nonprofit groups in Douglas County.

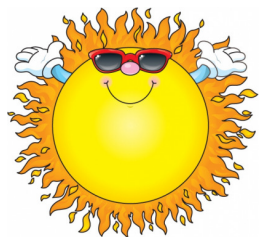
He passed away on Dec. 6, at the age of 79 just three weeks after the death of his wife Charlotte. But he left behind a long legacy of successful fundraising campaigns.

Wayman came to Roseburg in 1979 to work for the YMCA of Douglas County and later served as director of the Mercy Foundation. He did a lot of fundraising for large capital campaigns for nonprofit groups in the county, a career that spanned more than 40 years. His focus was mainly on community service raising funds for many local projects.

He was born in Salt Lake City, raised in San Francisco and graduated from San Jose State University in 1964. He began his career at the Los Gatos YMCA in California before coming to Roseburg. After a short stint as the financial director for the national YMCA in Pennsylvania, he came back to Roseburg and was hired as executive director of the YMCA in Roseburg. He served in that capacity from 1980-88. From 1988 to 1997, he was Director of the Mercy Foundation.

On May 10th **Betty Olson**, loving wife of Al Olson and mother of two sons, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family, friends and compassionate care givers at the age of 85 in Redding, California. She had been fighting kidney failure, and had been on dialysis for a number of years. She passed away after having a heart attack while on dialysis.

Betty was born on February 28, 1936 in Tulare, California to Harry and Ester Relph. She was the fifth child of twelve raised principally by her mother after the early passing of her father when she was 7 years old. Betty graduated from Monrovia High School (Class of 1954) where she met and later married Alvin Monroe Olson on September 10, 1955. Together, Betty and Al raised two sons, Alan and Todd. 1954-73,



Check these Websites Out:

YMCA Alumni — <https://www.ymcaalumni.org>

YMCA Retirement Fund — <https://yretirement.org/for-plan-administrators>

Allen-Stone Facebook — www.facebook.com search for Allen-Stone

Sioux Project—www.tinyurl.com/wawokiye



Ellis Marsalis, Jazz Pianist

Reunion '22
November 2-4, 2022
Have you registered yet?
November in the 'Big Easy'

**"In New Orleans,
Culture doesn't
Come down from on
High, it bubbles up
From the streets."
www.ymcaalumni.org**

Attention: Want color pictures, clearer pictures, quick delivery.

Let's go green. We would like to encourage your participation by email. For ease of communications please share your email address with Jane at pattisonjane1@gmail.com or Mike at mikiee.mike@gmail.com. Your address is not shared globally.

If you wish to discontinue receiving the newsletter in any format, please email Jane Rosi-Pattison or Mike Robinson.

NEWS DEADLINE

Deadline for articles/news for the Next Chapter newsletter is:

June 24, 2022

Email to : pattisonjane1@gmail.com

Or Send to: **Jane Rosi-Pattison**

2940 Harris St. Road, Kelso, WA98626

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER

April 19-22 Ashland Shakespeare Festival

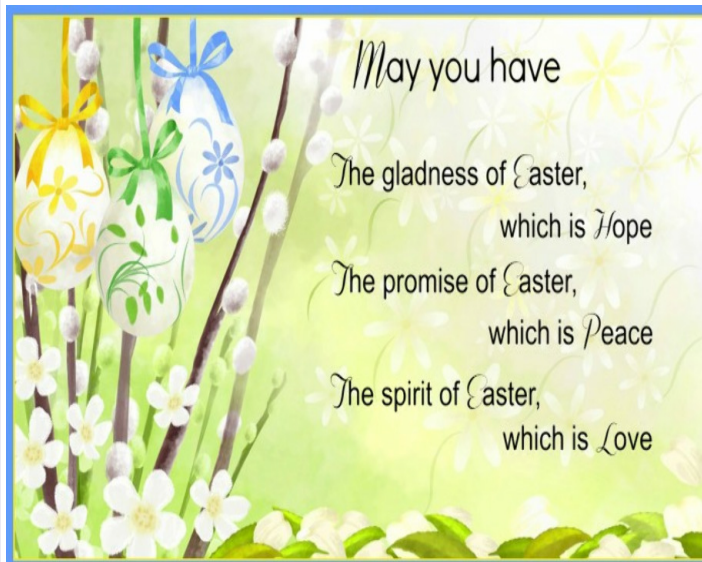
June 20-23 Coeur d' Alene

July 25-28 Cape Kiwanda RV Resort

September 12-14 Seabeck

November 2-4 YMCAALUMNI Reunion

December 10 Holiday Zoom



YMCA Alumni – Allen Stone Chapter Summer Fun in North Idaho 2022 Registration Form Registration deadline – May 10, 2022

Name: _____

Address: City / State / Zip: _____

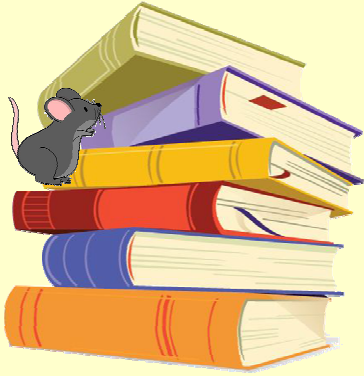
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number of people attending: _____ x \$210 each = \$ _____ Amount due

Names of people attending: _____

Send the registration form and a check for the amount due to: Jim Leigh, Treasurer Allen Stone Chapter
7760 Angel Falls Way, Redmond, OR 97756 jimfleigh@gmail.com

Please Note: If you are mailing in your registration for the Coeur d' Alene event, please also email Jim Leigh at jimFleigh@gmail.com as he maybe RVing and unable to receive snail mail until he gets home.



BOOKS...BOOKS....AND MORE BOOKS!

Read about what your Y Alumni who met on **Zoom** in March suggested as good books to read.

Find something that appeals to you!

Suggested by Jan Leigh

- **The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild**, by Lawrence Anthony. True story of the owner of a game preserve in South Africa who accepted a herd of rogue elephants and over many years established a close relationship with them. Details many adventures and challenges of maintaining a game preserve.
- **A Long Way Home** by Saroo Brierley. True story of a little boy accidentally lost and separated from his family in India. He is eventually adopted and moved to Australia. As an adult, he tries to find his way back home. Story was made into a movie called "Lion."
- **Moloka'i** by Alan Brennert. Historical fiction about the leper colony on the island of Moloka'i established in 1866. Many researched details about how people were taken away from their families and sent here, how it operated and the search to find effective treatments. Eye-opening.
- **House Lessons**, by Erica Bauermeister. Pacific Northwest author. True story about the renovation of a very old house in Port Townsend, WA, and what our homes/living spaces reflect about what is important to us in life. It talks about the psychology of architecture as well as the connections we forge with the homes we care for and live in.

Suggested by Jill Hallin

- **The Honey Bus** by Meredith May - a memoir written by a former San Francisco Chronicle staff member who recounts her struggles growing up with a dysfunctional mother. Her childhood was made easier when she went to live with her grandparents in the Carmel, CA area. She learned life lessons from her grandfather who was a 4th generation bee keeper and he allowed her to help with his bee keeping and honey making.
- **The Mockingbird Next Door - Life with Harper Lee** by Marja Mills. The author was a Chicago Tribune reporter who initially traveled to Alabama in 2001 to try to interview the reclusive Harper Lee and in fact was welcomed by her and her sister Alice Finch Lee. Mills eventually moved next door to the Lees for several months to recover from Lupus, became a part of their life, heard stories about their upbringing in their corner of the Deep South, visited locations important to them, and learned how the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* affected their lives.

Suggested by Don Leak

Liberty's Last Stand by Stephen Coonts. Let's call this *Historical Fantasy*. Historical because Coonts uses cultural headlines to anchor the events and Fantasy to project outcomes. Written in 2016 the preamble says, "Islamist terrorists lit the fuse...but a treacherous president planted the bomb". Don't misunderstand; the president is from the "small democratic party" and the opposing party is led by "Texas republicans." The nation is in shock over the latest Islamist outrage, the president imposes martial law, cancels the imminent presidential election and suspends the Constitution. In response, Texas secedes—and what follows is the bloodiest, most harrowing internal insurrection since the Civil War. Now the country is in flames, there are riots in the cities, and the America's armed forces are pitted against each other. The American people are confronted with the ultimate political question: Who are we, what do we stand for, and what are we prepared to do about it? Sound familiar?

Suggested by Jim Leigh:

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple. Murray McBride is 100 years old, tired of life, lonely, and feeling like he has no purpose. He befriends Jason, a young boy who has a heart defect and limited time to live. In the process of helping the boy achieve five wishes before he dies, Murray remembers what it is like to be young and learns about the importance of kindness and friendship while Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. The sequel is **The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride**.

Suggested by Gary Huff:

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. It is the story of 4 young, juvenile delinquents who set out on a journey from the Midwest to New York City, almost all on the Lincoln Highway which stretches from California to New York. The characters are very well developed during their journey and I found myself pulling for each one of them. The trip is also fast paced and is full of dramatic twists and turns that had me turning the pages. The ending is a mixture of sadness and hope. It is very well written and has received critical acclaim. I highly recommend it.

Suggested by Mike Ellis:

The Kingsbridge series by Ken Follett.

The first book of the series is called **The Pillars of the Earth**, set in the 12th century and deals with the building of a cathedral.

The next book in the series is called **World Without End**, set in the 13th century in the fictional town of Kingsbridge, England and deals with the black plague.

The third book in the series is called **A Column of Fire**, set in the 14th century and deals with the reformation.

The prequel, which I am reading now, is called **The Evening and The Morning**. It's about the end of the dark ages in the 900s.

Suggested by Joyce Leak:

- **A Most Beautiful Thing** by Arshay Cooper is the true story of America's first all-black high school rowing team in the west side of Chicago in the 1990s. The author and his team mates had never been on the water before the sport takes them from the streets of Chicago to the hallowed halls of the Ivy League boathouses. In 2017, he won the Golden Oar Award. Mr. Cooper has become a motivational speaker and activist particularly around issues of accessibility for low income families.

- **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, the Teaching of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a mother, accredited botanist and member of the Potawatomi Nation. Published in 2013. Best Seller, New York Times, 2020. The book is full of stories about maple sugar trees, black ash baskets, the 3 sisters garden of corn, beans, and squash or pumpkins and more. The Honorable Harvest on sharing: never take the first, never take the last, and never take more than half. Their Thanksgiving Address is to remind themselves to greet and thank all members of the natural world. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.

- **The Splendid and the Vile** by Erik Larson. "A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz." Larson provides a new lens on London's darkest year through the day-to-day experience of Churchill and those closest to him: his wife Clementine, youngest daughter Mary, and the advisers in Churchill's "Secret Circle," to whom he turns in the hardest moments. It makes one think of what is happening today between Russia and Ukraine.

