

Fall 2020

Sam Schreiner Chapter

Serving Southern Arkansas, Louisiana, Eastern New Mexico and all of Oklahoma and Texas



www.YRetiree.org November 2020 Newsletter

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CONNECT Sam Schreiner Chapter Members Connect

If we cannot have an in-person gathering, perhaps pictures help us



Pam Power and granddaughter, Eden at Fall Pumpkin Patch



Dick Engle with wife Sylvia when returning home from hip surgery .



Richard Engle supports his Sooners.



Johnnie Mae Dandridge

IN MEMORIAM

Gene and Clyde Bullard passed away within days of each other in October in Corsicana, TX. They had both just recently become lifelong members of the Sam Schreiner Chapter of YMCA Alumni. We send our deepest sympathies to their family, and will miss them both and their leadership deeply.

Now, before I look for another project for the balance of my “29 weeks and counting” time, I am being called for requests for more books as extended family members want their own copies. What a wonderful thing, to know something that happened to or was done by a relative who lived way before your time. I encourage people to tell their children and/or grandchildren stories of their family. You would be surprised how much those children will remember.

Zera Mackie September , 2020

Thank you Zera for sharing this neat idea.



Chuck Dandridge following Covid 19 guidelines.



Cloudcroft New Mexico sunset, taken by Patrick Murphy in October.



Janet Murphy enjoying the fall in Cloudcroft, NM

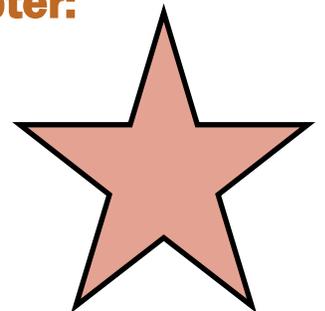
Happy Thanksgiving to all

From the Chapter Leadership, we hope that you are blessed to have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Some of you may be with family and others may be alone, but just know that we will get through this. Stay healthy, happy, safe, and blessed. We do have much to be thankful for, including our friends, old and new in the Sam Schreiner Chapter of the YMCA alumni.

Welcome New Members to the Sam Schreiner Chapter:

Edith Dahl from San Antonio
 Jacqueline Gordon, San Antonio
 Claudia Austin, El Paso
 Jim and Vicki Pacey, Austin

So glad to have you, Hope to see you at one of our gathering shortly.



MORE CONNECTIONS:**29 WEEKS AND COUNTING . . .**

. . . Of self-imposed quarantine during this historic pandemic of 2020. Direct orders from my daughter, a medical specialist working six different hospitals and surgical clinics, is to hunker down at home and not to venture outside my cocoon of safety. Since she brings me my grocery needs, I have no real cause to expose myself unnecessarily. If it were not for a couple of required medical visitations, strictly monitored by heavy protocol of precaution, I would have no social life at all. To keep the battery charged, I drive my car once a week; drive only, never stopping, never exiting until coming full circle home under my safety net. I am still driving on the tank of gasoline I purchased in March. I think I am getting about three months to the gallon.

After hearing, via the media, so many people complain of isolation, I decided to do something about it. I picked up my personal telephone directory, turned to page “1”, alpha “A” listings and began a systematic calling plan of one to two people daily until I went through the entire book. Many of these people were surprised to hear from me as my telephone listings are more like a “Christmas card” list – people I do not normally call regularly. I was amazed at the number of pleasant and interesting conversations that were so easily available.

It is amazing what you can accomplish without outside distractions or requirements upon your time. June, 2020 was to be our family’s 110th family reunion. For the first time in that many years, it was necessary to postpone our gathering. To compensate for this loss of annual communication between family members, most who do not see each other at any other time, I decided to begin a “110th Family Reunion” project. Little did I know at the concept of my idea that it would become a four-month project! A labor of love, however, and the days sped by. I was not a captive in my home, but was working “diligently in seclusion.”

This project I recommend for any and all who have an interest and knowledge of their family. I began writing every family story I had ever heard. I put vocal lore onto written page. Some stories were over a hundred years old, some were current day, some were funny, some were little known. The facts I knew that were not conducive to a full story, I made into pages of assorted paragraphs entitled, “Did You Know. . . .”

My family stories collection ended up being fifty-seven pages, one story per page. Then came the printing off my computer file, the collating, the three-hole punching and the inserting into notebooks. All this good work, while the world outside is grumbling about being “stuck at home”. Finally, on August 1st, a very small, less than fifteen, representation of masked family members who were local and who swore to have spent their time in isolation, gathered to sit and stand apart so that we could declare that our continuous 110 year tradition was met. The Family Stories notebooks were distributed.

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SERVING :

PATRICK'S PEN Paraphrased from a recent email:

Our last gathering was via ZOOM. (Yes, technology has been a big part of this quarantine experience and the YMCA Alumni chapter had to join those ranks.) We had a total of 21 members participate. We missed some of our regulars, but we do hope to see you soon. **Our next gathering will hopefully be this Spring sometime in April in Tyler TX. Dates will be forthcoming.** We did have several members join us who had not been able to make one of our gatherings in recent years, including Ben and Sue Casey from Dallas, Wanda and Jerry Tucker from Oklahoma, Thom and Kerry Parker, who shared their recent travels to Australia, and Suzanne Mabie from Austin.

The highlight of our Zoom meeting was an auction held to support World Service , with money designated for the Sioux YMCA. We were able to raise \$1,435 during the auction with the chapter matching \$500 and later donations bring the total to \$2,290. It is not too late to support World Service and the Sioux YMCA. You can do it on line. Just do not forget to scroll down and list the Sam Schreiner Chapter as your chapter. We had some lovely items donated including but not all: a week in Cloudcroft New Mexico at the Murphy's Cabin, a YMCA Tee shirt quilt made by Johnie Mae Dandridge, a hand crafted planted from Genie Mysorski, an engraved bottle of wine from Jim Heiman, a barn quilt or two from Elizabeth Seth, a party sized casserole dish from Jean Carmichael, several items from the Corsicana fruit cake factory, some hand made items from Pat James, and of course our infamous belt buckle. It was fun and a truly different experience.

My wish for you is to stay safe, stay strong, and stay healthy.

My Best,

Patrick Murphy, President, Sam Schreiner Chapter YMCA



A New Mexico Elk , picture taken by Patrick Murphy

What are you thankful for?

Friends and family we love, of course, extra time to do things we enjoy, this country we all love as well as our freedoms we enjoy, the beauty of God's creation, God's undying love mercy and grace, a comfortable home, YMCA retirement income, hobbies, our faith, hopefully good health, communications that keep us connected, laughter, and smiles. I am sure you can add your own to this list. It is time to reflect. God bless you all.