

CARONDELET Y SERVICE CLUB NOVEMBER 2007
MID AMERICA REGION
 CARONDELET YMCA 600 LOUGHBOROUGH ST. LOUIS, MO 63111
 (314) 353-4960
 EDITOR BOB DANIELS

Words to the Y's



PREZ SEZ

**OPA! DOLMADES! PASTICCHIO! MOUS-
 SAKA! BAKLAVA!** If you were at our last meeting on November 11, you recognize this new vocabulary—all Greek—and all delicious foods except for **OPA**, a common greeting. The Apollonia Restaurant in our neighborhood helped to increase our knowledge not only of words but of typical foods from this very old Mediterranean culture. Sixteen of us gathered that evening among whom were four guests: **Myrtle Mignerone, Marie Merlotti, Rita Fust,** and **Gloria Wagstaff**, all Book Fair volunteers. Thanks to **Marilyn Chase** for searching out this site for our adventure series.

We unveiled our new club banner, so colorful in our traditional red, white and blue, advertising our name and our service. Thanks to the Bendigo, Australia club for their idea and sample I saw in Adelaide, Australia, when I attended the South Pacific Area Convention fol-

lowing the International Council Meeting (ICM) there.

Since then I have learned that Area President (AP) **Fred Leonard**, who was there at the same time and actually called it to my attention, has ordered a similar style banner for the US Area Banner. His daughter helped to design it. (Can't imagine why I didn't see it for myself. Guess I was too far in the back of the room.) Maybe we will begin a trend in our Region and Area. Huzzah to Bendigo! Good way to share good ideas across our international movement. Be sure you come to the next meeting to see it. As long as I am President and I drive my car to the meeting, you will see it since it remains in my car from meeting to meeting. All I need is a good strong man to help raise it. Thanks to **Charley Redmond, Bob Daniels and Dan Schulze** this time!

“The Heart of Christmas”

By
FRAN GOEBEL



Have you ever noticed that we spend most of the Christmas season searching – searching for the perfect gift, searching for bargains, searching for first the right decoration..... searching around and around for a place to park?

It certainly gives a different spin to the biblical concept, “Seek and you find”!

And what is it that we really want to find?

I think most of us are looking for that perfect Norman Rockwell Christmas where we find the world – and our cranky relatives – perfect and peaceful and pain – free. But I'll let you in on a simple little secret that your heart suspects but your head is struggling to understand: No matter how special you want Christmas to be, something will always go wrong.

You can plan for the best, but it just doesn't happen: The gift you ordered doesn't arrive on time; Your late-night Santa follows the directions and still can't get the bicycle put together; Grandma's fruitcake doesn't taste like fruit or cake. And I know, when Christmas doesn't meet your expectations, life gets messy.

That's why I want you to look at

Christmas differently this year. This season is not about how your plans get messed up; rather it's about what God will do with your messy plans.

Three years ago, my wife Kay and I had some perfect plans for Christmas. As a pastor, it's my favorite time of year, but then there was a dreaded diagnosis: breast cancer. Talk about having your plans messed up – we were forced to fall fully on our faith, trusting that God could bring good even out of the bad situations of life.

In the cancer world of the hospital, there was a plaque with words that underscored my faith in God. It read,

“Cancer is so limited.

It cannot cripple love.

It cannot shatter hope.

It cannot corrode faith.

It cannot destroy peace.

Cancer cannot kill friendships.

It cannot suppress memories.

It cannot silence courage.

It cannot invade the soul.

It cannot steal eternal life.

And it cannot conquer the spirit.”

To that I would add, “It cannot defeat you. Trust Jesus Christ to work all things together for good in your life.” (Romans 8:28)

(continued page 3)

CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS

Membership is a Commitment

A member's commitment to the club is to save that second Sunday each month to be present at our meetings. In everyone's life there are times when health issues, family obligations, and travel may prevent a member from being present. We also recognize that other events which are just as important interfere.

We formerly had a starting time of 7:00 pm but changed it to suit the kinds of activities we have planned for this year to include

dinner. But, if you can, mark off that date and time and keep it for Y Service Club. We can only remain a strong club if we renew our commitment to being that member who comes to the meetings as regularly as possible. Coming a little late is not a problem at these restaurants because we take some time to chat, order, conduct a little business, eat when we are served, and finish with the remainder of business. The fellowship is at least equal to or more important to the business. Besides, we miss you.

SAM FINN (1923-2007)

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Rea Finn**, charter member, who lost her husband **Sam Finn**, charter member, on November 18 in death after injuries from a fall at home. He had been hospitalized for about a week before he passed. He had endured a degenerating condition for more than a year before his fall.

By e-mail and phone we contacted as many of you as possible. Several had seen the announcement in the newspaper. **Fran Goebel** and **Rachelle Reeg** attended the military graveside services on November 21 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. A veteran of WWII in the Darby's Rangers that invaded Rome, Sam had often told us of his experiences. He served as a Club President in its earlier history and continued in later years as Book Fair volunteer, collecting boxes for us, greeting us with his very special messages, and just raising our spirits with that wonderful grin below his white mustache.

We have selected to contribute to the Third Baptist Church Foundation where he was a member for 56 years, at the family's request. A few years ago we had honored the service of **Rea and Sam Finn** to Y's Men International with a tribute in the Golden Book of the Endowment Fund. Farewell, **Sam**. We will miss your spirit among us.

Adopt-A Family Project—A Good Reason for this Season

Thanks to Dan Schulze for sending the information here about the family from the Carondelet community assigned to our club for gift giving this year. Please look at the suggestions for the family members' needs and wishes. If you care to help out, members and other recipients, please call Marsha Brann at home—481-4732—to check with her about your gift choice.

Please bring your item, wrapped and labeled for the person you choose, to our Christmas Buffet Dinner on December 9. If you care to make a cash contribution, we will accept that also. Our club's

budget shows an additional amount to purchase as many items as possible to make this a wonderful gift for this very young family. Marsha has agreed to do the shopping for this project, and we thank her very much for doing this.

The beauty of our club is that there is always someone to step up to take on the tasks for others. Thanks to Marsha for her volunteerism this time and to the many others who have done this job in the past. 'Tis the season! Let's make the most of this opportunity to be generous. We have so many blessings. See Page 8 for size and ages.

Member Information

We are sorry to report that we have lost Donna Suntken Enke from our club. She worked so hard and successfully last year as Club Vice President planning programs and meals. Since last year, she has married Brad Enke, is attending UMSL full time, and is working as Barnes Hospital full time in her technical field. We all wish her well in reaching her goals and welcome her and Brad to join us from time to time and to keep in touch.

Hope everyone have paid their club dues --\$14.75 per member and \$10.50 for Youth member. Send checks to **Marsha Brann, 706 Loughborough, 63111**.

Continue from pg 1 (Christian Emphasis)

This Christmas you may feel discouraged. Or lonely. Or stressed out by too many plans or by plans that have fallen through. Perhaps this is your first Christmas after a bad divorce. Or a death. Or a disability, Maybe you're concerned or feeling hopeless about your finances or your future.

What should you do? Do what the Wise Men did that very first Christmas: Seek God. Focus on Him. God promises in the Bible, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

What have you been seeking? Has it been happiness or fulfillment or peace of mind or love or a purpose to living? During Christmastime people have a tendency to turn up the volume on whatever is going on in their lives. But you can know, even if your holiday pans are messy, that God is working His plan in your life in ways you cannot even imagine: No one has ever seen or heard or even imagined what wonderful things that God has ready for those who love Him." (1Cor. 2:9)

By: Rick Warren, Pastor, Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. And author of "The Purpose Driven Life."

International News

Mid- Year Meeting 2008
27 - 30 January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

Council Meeting
27 -30 July 2008, Holstebro, Denmark

International Convention
31 July - 3 August 2008, Herning, Denmark

US Area News

RDE Training was held in Indianapolis, IN, November 8 - 11th at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Pkwy W. Dr, Indianapolis, IN. Our new RDE JoAnn Gardner was in attendance.

Mid America Region News

B.R. Ryall Y's Men Club will be the main host for our next Regional convention scheduled for September 2008. The registration form is on the U S Area web site.

Mark Your Calendars

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION Sunday, December 9

SEE INVITATION

CHRISTMAS CONCERT—Friday, December 14

As a club activity for the season, we plan to attend
the Sisters of St. Joseph Concert with the St. Louis Wind Symphony
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. 3140 Meramec St.

All invited. Meet at 6:30 pm to sit together.

If you are interested, please call Rachelle at 314-631-6118 or e-mail: rrrstl9573@sbcglobal.net for ticket information.

Deadline: December 10

SPECIAL JANUARY MEETINGS

Saturday, January 12 Special Book Fair Meeting for Volunteers

Sunday, January 13 Carondelet Y Service Club Meeting (Members Only)

6:30 pm Topic: A Look at the Future

Please keep this date open for planning and conversation. We need to do this.



Please join us for

The Carondelet Y Service Club
Christmas Buffet Dinner

Date: Sunday, December 9

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Home of Marilyn Chase
6538 Walsh Ave.

Reservations by Dec. 6—314-832-5724

Cost: \$5.00

Guests Welcome

The Perfect Storm

by Michele Behan

#104, 24 September 2007

The St. Louis YMCA Book Fair

What happens when you mix a temperature of nearly 100 degrees, a severe thunderstorm and 576 people who paid \$10 each for first shot at over one million books and records? While your average Joe might run the other way, those of us who suffer from what Nicholas Basbanes terms "the gentle madness" would call it the Perfect Storm.

The YMCA Book Fair, held on August 24-29 in St. Louis, Missouri, was heavily advertised as one of the largest book sales in the country, with over 1,000,000 donated books and records available for purchase.

I happened to be in St. Louis visiting family that week. What better way to see the U.S.A. than attend a local book sale? Formerly, I had only attended book sales in Maryland and Pennsylvania and wondered if a Mid-western sale would be different.

The Book Fair's opening day dawned hot and sunny in the midst of an oppressive St. Louis heat wave, with the previous day's temperature having reached a sweltering 100 degrees. The YMCA Book Fair's organizers devised an elaborate system for their paid preview evening on August 24th. Numbered tickets for the grand opening at 4:00 p.m., which cost \$10 per person and afforded the opportunity of first choice of books and records, went on sale many hours prior at 7:00 a.m.

To get the best numbers, the die-hards began lining up outside the YMCA building as early as 2:00 a.m. At 7:00 a.m. the ticket sales began and, within 20 minutes, 187 tickets had already been sold at \$10 apiece. Keep in mind that the book sale itself wouldn't begin until 4:00 p.m., but with ticket in hand, you could feel secure that your future place in line was guaranteed.

As for me - Did I mention we were on vacation? - my leisurely arrival at 10:30

a.m. garnered me tickets #253 and #254. The rectangular orange tickets were cleverly designed to be worn as wrist bracelets, with an adhesive strip that allowed the numbered ticket to be securely wrapped around the wrist.

I spoke with Paul Fischer, a 25-year volunteer, about the history of the St. Louis YMCA Book Fair. The idea was born 29 years ago when the YMCA was looking for a fundraiser and Willis Pothoff suggested a book sale. Every year since, dedicated volunteers started in February to collect books all over the city of St. Louis. Bins, which are set up at every YMCA building and in local churches, act as receptacles for donations by concerned citizens, with proceeds earmarked to fund the Carondelet Family YMCA, YMCA literacy programs and community outreach programs at Washington University.

Two years ago, the Book Fair broke its fundraising record with proceeds of \$116,000. Although totals have not yet been tabulated for 2007, indications are that this year's sale is on par to surpass the previous year.

I asked Paul if he had an interesting story to tell from his 25 year history of volunteer work. Paul thought for a moment before he said, "Well, there was the time someone donated a set of encyclopedias with a gun in it." It seems that a woman had arranged for the YMCA to pick up a set of encyclopedias from her home. Soon afterward, the YMCA received a frantic call from her husband. He had cut the pages out of one of the volumes and used it as a hiding place for his gun. Sure enough, when the volunteers opened the book, they found the gun in its homemade book safe.

There was no gun at the 2007 sale, but violence made an appearance from an unexpected source - Mother Nature. About one hour prior to the opening of

the doors, the clouds darkened, the winds whipped themselves into a frenzy and lightning bolts streaked across the sky as a severe thunderstorm descended on the Book Fair's carefully arranged outdoor tents. Signs set up along the wrought iron fence to indicate demarcations ("Numbers 1-25 Stand Here," etc.) were blown away by gusts of wind. Volunteers hastily pulled down the side flaps of tents to protect the outside tented books from driving sheets of rain. By the time we arrived at the sale, about 15 minutes prior to the grand opening, the rain had abated. Puddles, broken tree branches and missing signage were left in the storm's wake. Electricity was in the air, but it wasn't from the lightning.

One unfortunate development ensued from the storm. Originally the entrance to the sale was through the parking lot where three large tents were stocked with books. From there, book sale attendees could proceed to the main building, in which books occupied three floors. However, the organizers feared that the rigged lighting in the outdoor tented area would pose an electrical hazard as the rain had saturated the power cords. They announced that the outdoor area would not open until 5:00 p.m.

This meant that the three floors in the main building were the only areas accessible throughout the first hour of the sale. Darn it; my battle plan had been to head first to the top floor, where the collectible books were housed. Now all the people who would have originally headed first to the tents would instead be in the building with me; I would face massive competition.

There was some confusion about where to stand in the long snaking waiting line, since the numbering signs had blown away. People inquired of others what their numbers were, so as to get an approximate idea of location.

As more people joined the line, divisions shuffled and adjusted accordingly.

Of course, there are always the line cheaters. Throughout history, people have lied, cheated and committed murder for the sake of books and civilization has apparently not changed that much. The outwardly personable guy holding ticket #299 was originally standing in the #250 area. This seemed okay when there were 50 people who had not yet shown up to claim their spots, but #299 seemed determined not to retreat when more people joined the line and the boundaries were subsequently adjusted. He surreptitiously lingered at least 50 spots ahead of where his number said he should be.

However, the integrity of the book sale proved to be in good hands with YMCA Executive Director Dan Schulze. The wrist bracelet system averted a potential crisis when Dan called out numbers by increments of tens. People had to lift their wrists and actually show their number before being allowed indoors. St. Peter guarding Heaven's gate could not have been more vigilant than Dan Schulze guarding the heavenly books, as #299 slunk back into the shadows.

According to the volunteers, the wrist bracelet system had been in place for the last 3-4 years and was engineered to prevent fights in the waiting line, which had become a recurring problem. Fights? At a book sale?

The reality is that such an event tends to bring out the best and worst of human nature. Only at a book sale does the drama of life in the mind visibly collide with the drama of life in the flesh. The themes of Homer's *Iliad* play out poignantly in the theater of book tents, auditoriums and narrow-aisled rooms while shoppers take the field and do battle for the coveted books.

There was the mad rush as the doors opened, the dash down narrow hallways and up and down stairs... boxes

colliding against tote bags. My spouse, a novice attendee experiencing his first foray into the battlefield of book sales, told of being sandwiched in an aisle between a slow-moving woman in a walker and a man banging a large box repeatedly against his back. I flew upstairs and ran straight to the room housing the collectible books. The ancient room air conditioner couldn't cope with the massive influx of crazed shoppers and the heat was suffocating.

A man with a zombie-like look in his eyes rushed to the table labeled "Rare, Special and Unusual," reached directly in front of me and snagged two books simultaneously in record time. So much for my pre-conceptions about Midwestern book sales being kinder and gentler.

However, there were many moments marked by Midwestern neighborliness. I had spoken to a woman in line while waiting to enter, and just before our numbers were called, we wished each other "good luck" as we parted ways. I wondered how she was doing as the next few hours melted away in a blur of frenzied shopping exacerbated by the sweltering heat.

Some people were genuinely taking their time examining each book slowly and carefully. A man politely asked if I had seen any Boxcar Children series books. Youthful book sale volunteers chivalrously carried books for older buyers out to their cars.

Surprisingly, I observed very few people using scanners at this sale. YMCA Executive Director Dan Schulze explained to me that only individual books on the tables could be scanned; it was against the rules to hoard a pile of books and then scan each one. This was the biggest difference I noticed from the Eastern sales I had previously attended and, from a non-scanner perspective, it was a policy which made the book sale a much more pleasant experience.

Since we traveled to St. Louis by plane - and having to bring shoes for every

possible occasion, I already had 6 pairs of shoes taking up valuable luggage space - I was necessarily constrained in the amount of books I purchased. I tried to limit myself only to those books worth the hassle of hauling long distance via Southwest Airlines.

While there were indeed some nice books on the Rare, Special and Unusual table, some of the prices were shockingly high. A copy of *Mein Kampf* was available for sale for \$2,500 (not surprisingly, it still had not sold by the second-to-last day of the sale); however, most of the other prices on that table ranged from \$25 to \$100. Other books in the upstairs collectible room ranged in price from \$2 to \$20, while the bulk of books in the tented areas, the gym and the basement started as low as 25 cents.

I wound up with 17 books at individual prices running the gamut from 25 cents to \$25 for a total outlay of \$69.75. After bringing the books back to Maryland and doing a little research, I discovered that three of my purchases were total duds. However, the rest stand to make a profit.

My most interesting find was an original 1910 edition of *The Science of Getting Rich* by W.D. Wattles, the same book in which Rhonda Byrne reportedly found *The Secret* which inspired her phenomenally successful film and book of the same name. Although reprints abound, original 1910 printings of this prosperity classic seem to be quite scarce. It cost me \$2.

All in all, the St. Louis YMCA Book Fair was a culmination of expectations, hopes, dreams, books and interesting people that blended together to create a powerful experience I will remember for many days to come. Who could ask for a more Perfect Storm?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dan Schulze, executive director of the Carondelet Family YMCA, reports that next year's St. Louis YMCA Book Fair will take place August 22-27.

CARONDELET Y SERVICE CLUB

November 11, 2007

Members Present: Eleaner, Dianne, Bob, Marilyn, Fran, Paul, Dan S., Rachelle, Debbie and Charley.

Guests: Marie, Gloria, Rita, and Myrtle

Welcome was given by Rachelle with an explanation of the handout to include the agenda and information regarding the Service Club.

Minutes from the previous meeting were printed in the last newsletter. They were approved as distributed.

New Banner for the club was on display. Thanks to the help of Lindsey Robinson (Carondelet YMCA Marketing), the design definitely is a good representation for this club. This is to replace the old white one.

Christmas Concerts: Debbie had the information regarding numerous concerts was printed in the newsletter. One concert that the club might be interested in attending is the one with the St. Louis Wind Symphony and the Sisters of St. Joseph on December 14th (Friday night) at 7:00. Marsha Brann should have tickets available for that concert if anyone is interested in attending.

December 9th meeting will be a Christmas Buffet held at Marilyn's house (6538 Walsh, phone number 832-5724) at 5 p.m. Please be sure to let her know if you plan to attend. We will have some additional information about Adopt A Family at that time.

Youth Club Formation. Bob talked about meeting with the youth at the Lindenwood University YMCA on Thursday, November 8th. There were five people there and they showed the CD regarding the Y's Men Organization. There are now about 8 to 10 clubs around the World for Youth. They are all associated with a Y's men Club. It is hoped that we can meet with them again in January. It would be nice to have at least 10 people willing to join.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Dan Schulze. He explained the actual amount of money the club had received from the Book Fair. There are essentially two funds (separate sections) for the club. The one fund utilizes 10% of the money received for general operations. The other fund utilizes 90% of the money received for Services such as the YMCA and various community organizations.

Awards: Rachelle presented Bob with the Honor Bulletin Award which is presented yearly by the U.S. Area Y's Men. Club Awards that were received this year from the U.S. Area include 6 out of the 7 possible awards. They are Camping, Literacy/SACC, YMCA Partner, Community, World Service, and Staff Training. Rachelle wanted to remind people of the large amount of money that is given to the Partner Campaign (\$11,000).

Community Center Update: The planning for the Community Center began in 2001. The Carondelet YMCA continues to be a potential organization to operate the South facility in Carondelet Park. It will be a 75,000 square foot facility. The delay continues to be due to finding someone to run the Northside facility. This will be an 18 million dollar facility. They hope to break ground in early 2008 and open the doors in 2009.

World Alliance of YMCA's. Rachelle reported as the Liaison for Y's Men to this organization. She stated that about 50% of the budget comes from the Y of USA and Canada. There was a discussion regarding the World Peace Day (November 17th) which is held at the end of World Prayer Week. The theme this year is "Children First". Rachelle also revealed a "secret" to the attendees regarding something they are working on as part of the United Nations. It is something that should help relieve the problem with Malaria in Africa.

Membership: Dianne has membership cards in case anyone is interested in joining our organization.

Opportunity: Looking for volunteers who might help the other club, City North, to wrap Christmas gifts for their annual event. We seem to do the fundraising and they do the social work for the YMCA.

Our 30th Anniversary will be next Fall, 2008. Anyone interested in working on this, let Rachelle know.

January Meeting will be January 13th (the day after the Book Fair Retreat) and will be at the YMCA (no dinner). The February meeting will be the Time of Fast month and we will probably share a variety of soup for that one.

Book Fair Retreat is January 12th. This will be important for the planning of the Book Fair and it would be nice for members to attend.

Other Announcements: In order to get some attention about the Annual Partner Campaign, Carondelet YMCA will have our own Nathan Barr on the treadmill on Monday, November 12th for the entire time the building is open that day (17 hours). Please make an effort to go by and give him your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Redmond, Secretary

Carondelet Y Service Club

2007/2008

Chartered October 1978

President: Rachelle Reeg

Vice President: Marilyn Chase

Secretary: Debbie Redmond

Treasurer: Marsha Brann

Members:

Dianne Daniels

Eleaner Eichenberger

Rea Finn

Fran Goebel

Gertrude Jones

Karen Karl

Nancy McCullough

Paul Mignerone

Audrey Miller

Mike Pfefferkorn

Sandy Pfefferkorn

Charlie Redmond

Jim Redmond

Dan Schulze

Shirley Snodgrass

Youth Members

Stephen Karl

Daniel Redmond

Bulletin Editor: Bob Daniels

Email: bdaniels3@prodigy.net

Our Adopt-A Family Members

First Name	Age/Sex	Shoes	Shirt	Skirt/Pants
Deanna	31/F	8 1/2	L	14
William	31/M	9	XL	36/29
Kayla	13/F	8 1/2	M(Jrs)	7/8(Jrs)
William	7/M	2	8	7
Devon	4/M	12	6X	4

The Newsletter deadline and club meeting dates for the year are as follows:

Meeting Date	Deadline date
Jan 13	Dec. 20
Feb 10	Jan 22
Mar 9	Feb 19
Apr 13	Mar 19
May 18	Apr 22
June 8	May 21

To Acknowledge The Duty That Accompanies Every Right

This newsletter can

be seen on the

internet AT

www.ysmenusa.com