



Y's Men International

# YMI

# WORLD

“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”

Only for private distribution to members



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Dear reader,

Motivated. Enthusiastic. Inspired. Excited. Call it what you will. That's how many felt when the first-ever RDE Summit concluded in Toledo a few weeks ago. The optimism that was exhibited following the firming up of the Challenge 22 strategy to reach the goals set for the centennial year got a fresh impetus.


Participating in the Summit was the high point of many a participant. This issue of *YMI World* covers the Summit and related activities which were well coordinated by the IHQ team and the YMCA of Greater Toledo. Our International Historian Debbie Redmond went to great lengths to ensure that history will not be unkind to our founder and to us as a movement. Debbie has been busy since the beginning of the year when she, along with then IP Moon Sang-bong and others, visited Toledo to trace the roots of the movement. Having discovered that there is nothing left in Toledo by way of markers or memorial, including a headstone for Judge Alexander where his ashes have been interred, IP Moon suggested the creation of the Paul William Alexander Legacy Project, which was formalised at ICM 19 held in Sendai. One of the action points under this project was to have a proper headstone in Judge Alexander's hitherto unmarked grave, which became a reality by the time we met in Toledo in November. Placing single-stemmed roses at this headstone as a mark of respect was an emotional experience for many.

It is gratifying to note that the city of Toledo also came forward to honour its now famous son by renaming a children's park in his honour. The Mayor of Toledo, Wade Kapszukiewicz, was proactive in this matter. Brad Toft, CEO and President of YMCA of Greater Toledo took great interest in ensuring that YMI execute these elements of the Legacy Project without any hitch.

It is these events that find prime space in this issue. We hope you enjoy reading about them and will be transported in spirit and mind to the events in Toledo.

We continue to give short accounts of the life of the movement in various parts of the world. This issue carries

Cover picture: Alan Otwell, grandson of Judge Paul William Alexander steps back after placing a single-stemmed rose as a mark of respect while others participating in the Summit await their turn. Picture by Charley Redmond.



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micro-history narrations from Region Denmark and Region Hawaii. News from Areas also find prominence, as usual.

For this issue's book section we have selected Greta Thunberg's *No One is Too Small to Make a Difference*, which is a collection of her appeals she made at different forums as a climate activist. She is indeed a small wonder who has caused quite a stir on the international stage, including the United Nations. As we write this piece she is challenging world leaders at COP 25 in Madrid to be more serious about the impact



of climate change on our planet. Here is a person who can be a model for all of us, especially the young who care for the planet. It is only appropriate that she has been named Person of the Year by Time magazine this year. YMI stands in solidarity with her and the youth of the world in raising their voices against the destruction of our only home, the Earth.

2019 will come to a close within a week or so and we look forward to a bright and prosperous 2020. So, here's wishing you all a .....

*Happy New Year*

Koshy Mathew

## FROM MY BOOKSHELF

*No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference* by Greta Thunberg, Penguin Books

The groundbreaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who has become the voice of a generation, including her historic address to the United Nations

In August 2018 a fifteen-year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, decided not to go to school one day in order to protest the climate crisis. Her actions sparked a global movement, inspiring millions of students to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.



*No One Is Too Small to Make A Difference* brings you Greta in her own words, for the first time. Collecting her speeches that have made history across the globe, from the United Nations to Capitol Hill and mass street protests, her book is a rallying cry for why we must all wake up and fight to protect the living planet, no matter how powerless we feel. Our future depends upon it.

(an independent review)

# Summit Fosters Global Fellowship and Learning

**Toledo, Ohio, 14-17 November 2019**



Participants of the Toledo Summit

The first International RDE Summit attended by over 90 people from various strata of the Y's Men Movement recently held in the birthplace of its founder, Paul William Alexander, from 14 to 17 November 2019 fostered global fellowship in an atmosphere of mutual learning.

Together with numerous senior officers, staff, and observers, including Past International President V.S. Bashir, the Regional Directors Elect, Area Presidents Elect and International Executive Officers gathered at the Radisson at The University of Toledo from the afternoon of 13 November to plan and push forward the agenda of Challenge 22.



USA Area President Bobby Stivers-Apiki acted as master of ceremonies at the inaugural



Brad Toft, President and CEO of Greater Toledo YMCA,

As part of the ongoing preparations for the centennial anniversary of the organisation, the meeting was held in the hometown of the organisation's founder, Judge

Paul William Alexander, to grant delegates the opportunity to witness the great legacy of the organisation and be inspired to build for the future.

In tune with a key element of the Challenge 22 Operational Plan to inspire a sense of belonging and being a vital component of a larger whole, the International RDE Summit provided



IP Jennifer Jones hands over a memento to Wade Kapszukiewicz, Mayor of Toledo

space for empowerment, inspiration, fellowship and network building. Emergent leaders left the event with a new group of friends and resource people at their disposal, to boost their leadership potential and bring the movement into a new era.

The event was opened during a ceremony on Thursday evening where the Mayor of Toledo, Mr Wade Kapszukiewicz, officially inaugurated the event. The evening's guest speaker was Greater Toledo YMCA President and CEO, Mr Brad Toft.

Ice-breaking exercises launched the formal activities and the week included a wide range of topics, including goal setting, finance and support, the Legacy Project, unified branding, new approaches to working with the YMCA, and international programmes. Case stories of success and innovative thinking were also presented by selected delegates, along with numerous opportunities for Area and Regional meetings and informal socialising and networking activities. •



Debbie Redmond and Kim Sang-chaе, co-chairs of the Paul William Alexander Legacy Project updating the delegates on the progress of the project

**MOVEMENT NEWS**

**Judge Alexander Honoured with a New Headstone**



**WITH ALL DUE REVERENCE:** (L-R) IP Jennifer Jones, PAP Debbie Redmond, Alan and Sandy Otwell, IPIP Moon Sang-bong, Brad Toft, ISG Jose Varghese, IPE Jacob Kristensen

A new headstone now identifies the founder's previously unmarked grave at the the Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Legacy Project, co-chaired by International Historian Debbie Redmond and Korea Area President Kim Sang-chaeh.

The Summit delegates placed single-stemmed roses on the grave and were joined in this commemoration by the grandson of Judge Alexander, Alan Otwell and his wife Sandy. Later, at a short service at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the church Judge Alexander attended, Alan Otwell, shared a recollection of childhood memories of his grandfather.

Debbie Redmond and Charley Redmond led the group in two buses to give the visitors a guided tour of the city of Toledo covering sites relevant to the life of Judge Alexander, from the time of his birth in 1888 until his death in 1967. •



**THEN AND NOW:** January 2019 - IP Moon and Co-chairs of PWA Legacy Project by the stone that identified the location where the ashes of Judge Alexander were interred. Fast forward to November 2019 – the new headstone on the same spot



Left: Alan Otwell, grandson of Judge Alexander sharing memories of his grandfather from his childhood days at the service held at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Muamee (right)



On the left is a picture taken in January 2019 by the Legacy Team of the entrance to the Woodlawn Cemetery. Right: Debbie Redmond addresses the delegates prior to the placing of single-stem roses

### Text of the Dedication Address by International Historian Debbie Redmond

Ninety-seven years ago today, Paul William Alexander alongside 65 other people met in Atlantic City, New Jersey for the very first International Convention. The dates of the Convention were the 15 to 17 November. These individuals from 17 clubs worked together to decide on the Constitution as well as the framework for the organisation and the election of the first International President. Upon returning home, the clubs finalised the Constitution and the organisation became official on 22 November 1922.

In talking about that very first Convention, here is what Paul William Alexander had to say in his own words: "In the convention hall at Atlantic City where our International Association began ... were two huge banners. One bore the inscription "And Their Young Men Shall See Visions." The other read "Where There Is No Vision the People Perish." And these legends have woven themselves deep into the warp and woof of our Y's Men's Movement. A fellow who has not the capacity to catch the **vision**, to sense the **need**, to **feel the urge**, to **absorb the inspiration** for the **kind of idealism we stand for** has not the capacity to be a Y's Man."

We are here today to honour our founder, our first International President, and the inspiration behind our organisation. Although he did not want to be honoured or worshipped, it is our **duty** to acknowledge his **vision**, his passion and his work. And so, we must repeat the motto written by him ... *To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies every Right.*

We honour you, Judge Paul William Alexander and your family for your vision, love and dedication to the International Association of Y's Men by each individual present placing a flower on your grave.



The church that Judge Alexander attended in his childhood days in Toledo



Judge Alexander's childhood home in Muamee, on the outskirts of Toledo



Lucas County court house in Toledo where Paul William Alexander presided as a Judge

### New IPE Installed



Left: IP Jennifer Jones pinning the IP-Elect's lapel pin on new IPE Jacob Kristensen, and right: The officers, some with their spouses, from left to right International Treasurer Philips Cherian, Russel Jones and IP Jennifer Jones, IPIP Moon Sang-bong and Lee Hye-sook, IPE Jacob Kristensen and Randy, and ISG Jose Varghese

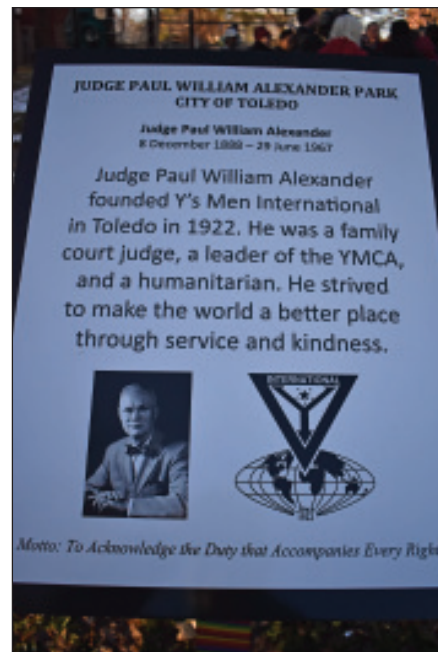
**MOVEMENT NEWS**

# Toledo Park Renamed in Honour of Judge Alexander

The City Council of Greater Toledo, Ohio, USA had unanimously voted on 17 September 2019 to dedicate a public park located in the middle of the city of Toledo in the name of the founder of Y's Men International, **Judge Paul William Alexander**. The formal dedication ceremony of the park by the city government was on 16 November 2019 in the presence of the delegates attending the first ever Y's Men International RDE Summit at Toledo. The naming of a local park

after our founder was one of the Paul William Alexander Legacy Project initiatives to celebrate our centenary in 2022.

The Park, formerly called Superior Park, which stands in the middle of a residential neighbourhood exclusively for the use of children between the ages of 5 and 12, was dedicated by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. The renaming of the park fulfils another goal of the Legacy Project, achieved with extensive support from Mayor Kapszukiewicz and the City of Toledo. The unwavering assistance of the YMCA of Greater Toledo and its CEO and President, Mr Brad Toft, to facilitate the Summit and associated activities is also warmly acknowledged. •



The marker perpetuating the memory of Judge Alexander unveiled on dedication day



Some of the entertainment equipment for children at the park



Toledo City Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz talks to the TV crew after dedicating the park to the memory of Judge Alexander



ISG Jose Varghese with Brad Toft, CEO and President of the YMCA of Greater Toledo



Delegates at the park after the dedication

# “STEP UP THE FIGHT”

## YMI Joins a New Multi-Stakeholder Partnership to Fight Malaria



President Macron of France (in the middle) and Microsoft founder, Bill Gates (extreme right) with other stakeholders at the Sixth Replenishment Conference

Y’s Men International, together with World YMCA, is pleased to announce a new multi-stakeholder partnership to support **The Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** during the Global Fund’s Sixth Replenishment Conference, convened by French President Emmanuel Macron in Lyon, France from 9-10 October.

The International Council backed the initiative with a unanimous decision to join ranks with national governments and around 60 other organisations supporting The Global Fund such as Apple, Microsoft, Google, Mastercard, UN Foundation, Tata Trusts and Starbucks.

World YMCA, which reaches 64 million people in 120 countries, will coordinate global advocacy efforts, as well as support community engagement and outreach initiatives to help reduce the burden of malaria, especially with young people and the most vulnerable. DFID, the international development arm of the UK government, will provide matching funds, unlocking nearly USD 1 million to fight malaria.

“We welcome the investment made by World YMCA and Y’s Men International to strengthen the Global Fund’s malaria programs,” said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “Through its vast network worldwide, the YMCA will be able to mobilise more young people in the fight

against malaria, bringing us closer to ending the epidemic by 2030.”

World YMCA is committed to addressing climate change, issues around mental health, and improving economic opportunities for young people. The negative impact of climate change on

malaria and the effect it can have on a young person can lead to lost job opportunities and increased mental health difficulties. This partnership will help contribute to saving 16 million more lives as part of the Global Fund’s mission.

Source: YMI News

### The Sixth Replenishment

In early 2019 the Global Fund called on the world to step up the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. This Sixth Replenishment sought to raise at least USD 14 billion.

Stepping up the fight should not be seen as a choice, but as the fulfilment of a promise. This moment presents us with an opportunity to take a massive step toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3: health and well-being for all. We have no time to waste.

USD 14 billion for the Global Fund would...

Help get the world back on track to end HIV, tuberculosis and malaria:

- **Save 16 million lives** between 2021 and 2023, reducing the mortality rate by 52 percent across the three diseases by 2023, relative to 2017 levels.
- **Reduce the death toll** across the three diseases to 1.3 million in 2023, down from 2.5 million in 2017, and from 4.1 million in 2005.
- **Avert 234 million infections or cases** reducing the incidence rate by 42 percent across the three diseases by 2023, relative to 2017 levels.

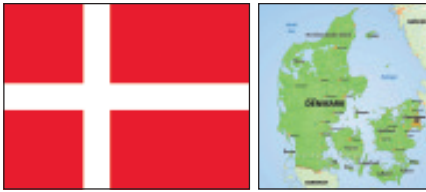


Accelerate progress toward SDG 3 and universal health coverage:

- **Strengthen health care systems** through directly investing approximately US\$4 billion to build capacities such as diagnostic tools, surveillance systems, supply chain management and training for health care workers, and accelerating the shift toward patient-centered, differentiated models of care.
- **Reinforce health security** by helping build more resilient health systems, with stronger surveillance, diagnostic and emergency response capabilities, and by directly tackling key threats to global health security, such as multidrug-resistant TB.
- **Yield a return on investment of 1:19** with every dollar invested resulting in US\$19 in health gains and economic returns, further contributing to the achievement of the overall SDG agenda.
- **Spur domestic investment of US\$46 billion** toward ending the three diseases and strengthening health systems through cofinancing requirements, and technical assistance on health financing.
- **Tackle inequities in health** including gender- and human rights-related barriers to access, by working with partners, including civil society and affected communities, to build more inclusive health systems that leave no one behind.

Source: the globalfund.org

## Region Denmark - a Powerhouse in Area Europe



Denmark was not the first country in Europe to welcome Y's Men's clubs, but after World War II, a Danish businessperson from Aalborg, Ejnar Davidsen, travelled to Prague (in former Czechoslovakia), where he heard about Y's Men from a Czech friend. Although Y's Men's clubs in that part of Europe had ceased to exist because of the war



The "fathers" of Y'sdom in Denmark: Ejnar Davidsen and Niels Vase Jensen (1996).

and the communist takeover, the idea of such a club interested Davidsen. At a private lunch, his friend said, "You are a lucky man." "Yes, but why do you say so?" "Because you live in the free world, where you are allowed to have Y's Men's Clubs." Ejnar said, "Y's Men's Club, what is that?" Upon his return to Aalborg, Ejnar took the initiative to start a Y's Men's Club, and in 1947 the Aalborg Club received its charter from then IPE David J. Coughy, Canada. Thus, the first club in Denmark was – so to speak – built on the ruins of the club in Prague.

One of the members of the Aalborg club, Niels Vase-Jensen, was elected Regional Director (then called International Director) in 1952 for Region Europe/Africa. Later, in 1972, he and Ejnar Davidsen were honoured with honorary membership of Region Denmark. That took place at the Regional Convention in Aalborg,

celebrating the "Silver Jubilee in the Golden Year" (Denmark 25 and YMI 50 years).

### Slow but Steady Growth

The idea of Y's Men's clubs spread from Aalborg all over Denmark and to Norway, where the first club, Stavanger, was chartered in 1958. In the beginning, the movement expanded slowly, but in the 1970s, we experienced encouraging growth with 5-10 new clubs being

in Stockholm, Sweden, Eigil Andersen received – as the first Dane – Y's Men's most prestigious award, the Harry M. Ballantyne Award.

### Region Denmark Today

Region Denmark counts 158 clubs, including 21 in Central and Eastern Europe. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, it was again possible to travel in the former communist parts of Europe, and Region Denmark decided



Past RDs at the Regional Convention in Aalborg 1997

chartered every year. We received good support from USA, especially from ISG Henry Grimes, who visited Denmark in 1955.

In 1964, Region Europe-Africa was divided, and Europe formed three regions: Region Sweden-Finland, Region Central/Southern Europe and Region Denmark-Norway. The same year, Elias Lauritsen, Kolding, took over as RD (ID) for Region Denmark/Norway. In 1969, Denmark and Norway became two independent Regions. The first RD (ID) for Region Denmark was Eigil K. Andersen, Kalundborg.

Eigil Andersen was a charismatic leader and he and Bent Høyen Andersen, Kjellerup, were the two first Danish members of the International Council, which was formed according to the new International Constitution of 1972. At the International Convention in 1980

to start an extension drive in order to get Y's Men's Clubs re-started in this part of the world, from where the Y's Men's idea had come to Denmark. The two pioneers in this work were Lasse Bergstedt and Poul V. Thomsen (now past IPs). With the support from "mother clubs" in Denmark, they succeeded in getting the movement re-started. Today there are three districts with 21 clubs in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Kosovo. For this accomplishment and several others, Poul V. Thomsen has received, as the third Dane, the Harry M. Ballantyne Award (the second Dane to receive this award is Christian Bach Iversen, PIP).

### IPs from Denmark

The first International Convention in Denmark (and the first outside North



## MICRO-HISTORY



PIPs Kaj Steno Hansen and Christian Bach Iversen waiting in line to shake hands with the Queen and ICCG Henning Kirkfeldt

America) was held in Copenhagen in 1970. In connection with this great Convention, with over 1,700 participants, a Dane was elected as the first IP from outside North America – Poul H. Jorgensen from Fredericia. He served in 1971-72.

After him followed Gotfred C. Nissen (1978-1979), Christian Bach Iversen (1979-1980), Kaj Steno Hansen (1987-1988), Ole Hansen (1999-2000), Lasse Bergstedt (2007-2008) and Poul V. Thomsen (2013-2014). Here it should be added, that Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen was elected to take over as IP in 2020, but as it is well known now, he died while visiting Armenia in August 2019. To replace him, Past AP Jacob Kristensen has recently been elected. Denmark has had one International Treasurer in Erik Breum.

The second International Convention in Denmark took place in Aarhus in 1986. Her Royal Highness Queen Margrethe participated in the opening ceremony. A little over 1700 persons from 27 countries took part in this Convention and 170 participated in the first International Youth Convocation.



Youth Convocation 1986. In the back to the right is PIP Ole Hansen and PAPA. Sejer Poulsen



PIPs and spouses at the Herning International Convention

Youth from all over the world came together for five days and had activities in connection with the International Convention. The Convocation was a true success, and the chairperson, A. Sejer Poulsen, had good reasons to be proud.

The background of the Youth Convocation was that it was based on the YEEP programme that was adopted in 1974. Through this programme, about 170 Danish young people stayed with a Y's family in another country until 2000. During the same period, about 450 young people have internationally participated in the programme.

This successful start of the YEEP programme proves that many young people wish to go to another country, but the development showed that it became increasingly difficult to spend a whole year on an exchange. At the International Convention in Oslo 1992, the Short Term Exchange

Programme (STEP) was introduced.

The third International Convention in Denmark was held in Herning in 2008. The Convention as well as the Youth Convocation was well attended. Prior to this Convention a three-day get-together for PIPs and their spouses were also arranged. The fourth International Convention in Denmark will be in Odense in 2020. **See you there!**

Submitted by PIP Christian Bach Iversen for Region Denmark

# MICRO-HISTORY

## Y's Men's Clubs in Hawaii – Serving the YMCA 100%



The first Y's Men's Club in Hawaii was organised by Ko Fong Lum in 1926 at the Nuuanu YMCA. K.F. Lum had organised the first of these clubs outside of North America in Shanghai in 1924 and when he returned to the Nuuanu Y he set about organising some of the first Y's Men's clubs in the islands. In the beginning, the age of members was limited to men between the ages of 20 and 40. Later, club members were allowed to remain in the club indefinitely, provided no more than a quarter of the membership was more than 36 years old.

During the Great Depression (1929 - mid-1930s), Y's Men's clubs formed previously became inactive. However, at the end of the Depression, revival of clubs began with the reorganisation of the Honolulu Club on 30 November 1937. The club's first project was the promotion of pedestrian safety and working with elementary schools supporting the Junior Traffic Cop programme, later known as the JPOS.

### Hawaii Region Today

Fast forward to today, the Hawaii Region Y Service Clubs have an active membership of 130 volunteers across all islands of the State. There are 9 Hawaii Y Service Clubs, each in partnership with a local YMCA. There are 2 Districts in the Region - Metro District on the island of Oahu with six clubs and OVG District with one club on each island. (Orchid-Hawaii Island, Valley-Maui Island, Garden-Kauai Island).

On 27 July 1938, the **Y's Men and Women's Club of Hilo** was chartered with 25 members and, in accordance with the Constitution of the International Association, 20 of them

had to be less than 35 years of age. During the war years, membership dropped drastically to a low of three active members, with much talk of disbanding, but they were able to survive.



Ko Fong Lum

The Y's Men and Women's Club of Hilo led in the building development through an initial pledge of USD 10,000, contingent on YMCA Board action on building a new YMCA building. The club eventually raised USD 14,000 of the total USD 282,260 raised and, on 13 February 1966, the Waiakea Settlement YMCA building was dedicated.

Since 1950, the Hilo club has sponsored a Christmas Tree Sale. The sale is run entirely by volunteers with the support of various businesses, agencies and other community support groups. The net proceeds from the sale includes

supporting the Y's Annual Campaign, sponsoring students from Kau to attend the Youth and Government camps on the island of Oahu, providing hurricane and volcano eruption assistance and supporting the homeless.

**Y's Men's Club of East Kauai** was chartered on 17 July 1950. Currently, the YMCA's Executive Director Tom Tannery is not only a member of the club, but also has been serving as the club's president for a number of years. At the suggestion of club member Jennie Yukimura, our regional project "Peace Through My Eyes" was implemented in 2011. Third and fourth graders attending the Y spring intercession were asked to draw and write an essay of what peace means to them. This project continues to be a major collaboration with our local Ys.

Chartered on 18 August 1954 the **Y's Men's Club of Maui** continues to provide manpower overseeing the parking for Maui County Fair with help from family and friends.

**Y's Men and Women's Club of Honolulu-Nuuanu** was chartered on 29 May 1964. Most noteworthy is their annual community service project organising and serving a Thanksgiving luncheon for the 140 seniors at Kalani Huia Center for the past 47 years.

Unlike most clubs in the Hawaii Region, the **Y Service Club of Kaimuki**,



Members of the East Kauai Y Service Club

**MICRO-HISTORY**



Celebrating Open House of Waiakea Settlement YMCA

chartered on 5 April 1963, has consistently been able to recruit young members. Currently 50 per cent of their membership is under the age of 40.

The relationships developed by the young members with YMCA staff and volunteer advisors have provided vital recruitment opportunities for the club. As an incentive to encourage and maintain their younger members, the club waives dues and fees for the first year of their membership.

The **Y Service Club of Windward** was chartered on 5 April 1980. Today, club members are actively involved in supporting the Windward Houseless Service Care event. On the last Tuesday of each month, the Windward Y, the Institute of Human Services, and Daybreak Church partner to provide services supporting the houseless community of Kailua. Club members

provide toiletry and snack bags for this project and oversee their distribution every month.

Under the guidance of the Mililani's YMCA Branch Executive, Maile Kanemura, the **Y's Men's Club of West Oahu** was chartered on 14 January 1984. Many of the leadership roles for the Hawaii Region have evolved from this club. Three past Regional Directors of the Region are from this club.

The formation of **Y's Men's Club of Kalihi** was organised by the newly appointed Branch Executive, Phil Chun of the Kalihi YMCA and chartered on 19 January 1991. Working tirelessly, Phil recruited prospective members, drafted the club's constitution and by-laws, and set the club's goals and vision. Their annual Christmas caroling at senior care homes highlights this club's community service.



Lance Nimi and Chris Omerod showing the Christmas trees to customers

**Y Service Club of Central Y, Honolulu** was chartered on 24 May 1994 under the direction of their Branch Executive Dave Livingston. Recently, the club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner inviting clubs on Oahu to share in this momentous occasion. The club is most proud of their direct impact with the Central YMCA, providing their annual holiday dinner for residents of the Y.

The Hawaii Region has been well represented in the leadership of the USA Area. Three members have served or are currently serving as Area Presidents: Ray Seto (1993-94); Phil Sammer (2009-11) and now Bobby Stivers-Apiki (2019-21).

As Y Service Clubs our mission is to make a difference in each of the communities we live in and support the YMCA of Honolulu; Island of Hawaii YMCA, Kauai Family YMCA and Maui Family YMCA Associations. This is evidenced by the strong relationship we have built with the YMCA and the service projects that each club has championed.

Submitted by Joeann McCarthy for Region Hawaii



Kaimuki youth helping at shave ice booth on Healthy Kids Day

**INTERVIEW**

# V. Justin – The Progenitor of Y’s Lings’ Clubs in India

Vedasiromany Justin or simply known to many as V. Justin, is a quiet and affable gentleman in his early 80s. He is probably the oldest active member of the movement in India, having joined the Y’s Men’s Club of Trivandrum (then in India-Ceylon Region, now in South West India Region) in 1961 at the age of 25. He was also a member of the Y’s Men’s Club of Toledo Downtown, Ohio, between 1972 and 1977. Justin has been a loyal and disciplined member all these years and still attends regular club meetings and, whenever possible, Regional and Area Conventions.

Our special correspondent in Trivandrum, **Sunil George Kurian**, once a member of that club, met him and spoke about the ‘good old days’. Here, he shares with us his how he managed to conceptualise and contrive the formation of Y’s Lings’ Club (a phenomenon found only in Area India) and promote the concept of Family Club.



**Before we talk of your Toledo days tell us a littled about your involvement in your home club.**

As you know I have been a Y’s Man since 1961 and belong to the club that gave YMI the first International President from India, Dr. P. Sukumaran – the Y’s Men’s Club of Trivandrum. I have held various positions at the club level but never aspired to seek new positions. I dutifully carried out the duties assigned to me by the club, including its editorship of the club bulletin in 1969.

**What about your involvement in the movement while in Toledo?**

In the golden jubilee year of the movement in 1972, I went to Toledo and stayed there for five years learning photography and a few other things. I was admitted to the Y’s Men’s Club of Toledo Downtown, the mother club of the movement and the home club of Paul William Alexander in January 1973. I was made Club Secretary in 1974. I discovered that all its members were above 65 years of age and sensed the threat of existence of the club itself after a few years. So, I put forth a plan to enrol some younger members but not everyone succeeded. I was also active in the Region and served as Regional Bulletin Editor of the Ohio-West Virginia Region in 1976-77.

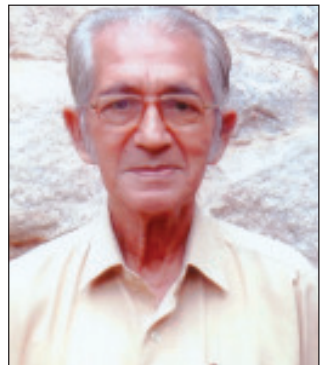
I returned to India in 1977 to resume my career. In 1982 or 1983 I heard that the Toledo Downtown club was on the verge of being officially wound up. Just one of the founding members, Ford Weber, was still alive and active at that time.

**We know you are the founder of the Y’s Lings’ Clubs and the originator of the ‘Family Club’ concept? Was your Toledo experience a motivating factor?**

Yes. I saw the writing on the wall with ageing membership. And, I was proved right after several years with the example I gave above.

Although I promoted the Y’s Lings’ Club for reasons somewhat personal, I got the opportunity to form the second Y’s Menettes Club when I was RSD in the erstwhile India-Ceylon Region for Brother Clubs in 1970-71. For members like me, who were in their 30s, to be fully involved in club life meant leaving wife and children at home when we attended club meetings or conducted service projects. The first Y’s

Lings’ Club (in the world, one must say) was also formed that year. That was the beginning of the family club concept, something that is now much appreciated and adopted by many Regions the world over. I believe it is a unique concept and that makes Y’s Men International stand out from other service clubs.



However, since family life in Western countries is different from the traditional Indian model, the concept of family clubs did not attract much discussion and encouragement.

**What do you have to say by way of a strategy for extension?**

First of all, attract service-minded youth to join the club. Recruiting two or three new members from among the young couples known to members will lend long-term stability and interest. My home club is a good example. We were chartered in 1951 with 23 members and today we have over 40 members and still growing. Look at the multiplier effect with spouses and children added and, it becomes a community by itself!

Next, promote the family club idea where all in a family find space and enjoy the fellowship. One reason why my home club is active and growing is because of the family club concept.



At the site of the YMCA, where the first Y’s Men’s club club was formed in 1920, since then demolished but recorded with a marker

**INTERVIEW**

The other is the close working relationship we have with the Trivandrum YMCA. The family club concept allows a mixture of senior citizens, middle-aged persons and young couples to share one platform. With an active Y's Menettes Club, a Y's Youth Club and Y's Lings' Club the meetings become lively and the activities useful.



Justin (extreme left) with Gerald L. Heyl, International Secretary General from 1963 to 1973, and two others in Fredericton, Canada in 1996

**Any disappointments?**

Yes and no. On the whole I am happy with the fellowship I enjoy and the opportunity offered by YMI to be of service to others less fortunate than us. I have to say that one disappointment I have in relation to Y'sdom is the non-acknowledgement of the existence of Y's Lings' and youth at the International level. Its promotion could have been a great catalyst for the stability and growth of the movement.

Another one is the way we have failed to project our image. On 25 July 1997 when I went to Toledo to attend the seventy-fifth anniversary, I went through *Toledo Blade*, my favourite newspaper of that city when I was there, I was shocked to read the headline: "500 in Y Club to celebrate YMCA founding" and the lead paragraph went on to say "About 500 members of Y's Men International are in Toledo this week to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the YMCA."

**Finally, what advice do you have for the Y's Men of today?**

Cultivate service mentality and serve the society because service is the rent we pay for occupying this planet.



**Award Winners:** PAP K.C. Samuel from India won the Best AP Award while PRD Mun-Seob Gil from Korea won the Best RD Award instituted by IPIP Moon Sang-bong and presented by him at the RDE Summit in Toledo. This is the first time that such awards are being given and it is hoped that there will be many worthy contenders for these in the years to come.



**JUMBO CLUB:** In an extraordinary and unprecedented membership campaign Area Korea reached a new high with the formation of a new club named **Y's Men and Women's Club of Gim Hae Helpers High** on Founder's Day, 8 December, the last day of the 100-Day Challenge. The club, which consists of doctors, nurses, and medical administrators was inaugurated by IPIP Moon. It is definitely a booster for the YMI Doctors programme since every member has committed to true volunteerism through their medical services.

## FROM THE AREAS

### Denmark: IBC – From Two to Four

In 1967 two clubs were chartered, one in Norway and the other in Denmark. They are Arendal Y's Men's Club and Aars Y's Men's Club. In 1974 two members from Aars (Johannes Madsen and Kristian Mogensen) made a trip to Arendal, suggesting that the two clubs should become Brother Clubs. They were very well received and since then the two clubs and the members have met at least once every year. Many personal friendships have developed across the ocean. It has even led to a marriage between a member from Arendal and a member from Aars.

**Triangle Brother Clubs:** In January 1979 a member from the Aars club (Christian Bach Iversen, then IP elect) visited Sri Lanka on his way to the Mid Year Meeting in Seoul, Korea. In Sri Lanka he was hosted by Moratuwa Y's Men's Club and he was very impressed to witness the services that this club rendered to its local community such as a Girls' Home and the Children's Ward at the local hospital. Back home he suggested a triangle Brother Club connection between Moratuwa and the two Scandinavian clubs.

That was gladly accepted, and now, 40 years later, we can look back at mutual visits between the three clubs and countless number of letters and emails. The two daughters of the present president in Arendal have, in the last few years, made several trips to Sri Lanka which help to keep the relationship in good shape.

On 11 November this year the Arendal Club President, Egil Odd Halvorsen, and his wife Alice, paid a visit to the



Photo taken on the occasion of the visit to Aars in November to highlight the 40th year of brother club relationship. From left to right: Egil Odd Halvorsen (Club President, Arendal) Christian Bach Iversen (Past International President) Ole Moeller (Club President, Aars)

Aars club to observe the fortieth anniversary of that relationship.

**Quadrangle Brother Clubs:** In 1987, Jon Lindset from Arendal Y's Men's Club made a BF trip to North America. He visited Helena Y's Men's Club, Montana. He was very well received by the club and when he was back in Arendal it was suggested that the Helena club should join the above mentioned triangle, making it a quadrangle. In connection with the International Convention in Oslo 1992 a quadrangle Brother Club Certificate was signed. So now we are four clubs keeping in good contact, thanks to the email system.

Submitted by CP Egil Odd Halvorsen (Arendal)

### Japan: Challenging the Guinness World Record on 'Y's Day'

The Y's Men's Clubs in Japan commemorate 10 November as 'Y's Day' because it was on that day in 1928 that the Osaka Y's Men's Club, the first Club in Japan, was chartered. Many clubs hold various events around this day to spread the message of the Movement and to initiate new clubs.

On 27 October, Kyoto District of



**Signing on T-Shirts:** On the left is the Mayor of Kyoto City, Mr. Kadokawa, and in the middle is DG Shimada

Japan West Region challenged the Guinness World Record on a shopping street in downtown Kyoto. The challenge was the competition of 'The highest number of people who signed on the back of each other's T-shirts within one minute'.

As a result, 919 people, most of them invited guests, were able to sign and the challenge was officially recognised successful, just exceeding the current record of 918. During the challenge, we set up a stage for musical performances and various booths introducing Y's



With the official certificate of the Guinness world record

Men's clubs, their service activities and SDGs in the park nearby. This event was reported on television and in newspapers, raising awareness of YMI to the general public and provided an opportunity to welcome new members.

Submitted by Hiroshi Shimada (DG, Kyoto District)

**FROM THE AREAS**

**Estonia: The East of Europe Joins East of Asia in Tokyo**

Two members of Pärnu Y's Men's Club, Marina and Gerallt, were hosts at a dinner with representatives of Tokyo and Tokyo area Y's Men's Clubs. This came about because we were also following the rugby World Cup in Japan. Eight Japanese clubs were represented - Chiba, Kawagoe, Tokyo-Hachiouji, Tokyo-Sunrise, Tokyo-Koto, Tokyo-Tampopo, Kofu 21, Tokyo-Musashinotama and, of course, us from Pärnu, Estonia.

The wonderful dinner was held in Shinjuku Summit Club, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo. It was indeed a testament to Japanese hospitality and goodwill. Our visit to Japan brought together different clubs in Tokyo and around. They could meet old friends and make new friends within Tokyo and, of course with Estonia. The dinner was an opportunity for socialising and discussing activities

in the two countries, as well as opening the possibility of forming links and sharing projects together.

Being in support of clubs from the sister movement, YMCA was seen as an important role in Japanese clubs' activity. Fundraising and promoting cultural events are common objectives of Y's Men's Clubs in Japan and Estonia. Two advantages for being part of YMI were pointed out. First, being able to participate in activities aimed at helping charities, and second, being able to promote and take advantage of connections between Y's Men club



Visitors from Pärnu with the hosts

members all over the world. The idea that we have good friends with a common aim, in far off countries is a great thought, building bridges rather than barriers. It was a really happy and inspiring meeting with numerous gifts exchanged as mementos of this rather historical visit.

Submitted by CP Marina Mesipuu-Rhun and Gerallt Rhun

**USA: Fundraising Hawaiian Style**

In the early Sunday morning hours on the way to this annual Nuuanu fundraising event, one might see vibrant rainbows, green mountains topped with layers of clouds, streaming waterfalls, or blue sparkling ocean waters.

On such a morning in the month of September, in the far back left hand corner of the parking lot that fronts the Nuuanu YMCA, you will find the Y's Men and Women's Club of Honolulu-Nuuanu, with help from the Nuuanu YMCA, setting up and getting ready for their long-standing annual fundraiser, selling deliciously marinated Hawaiian style *hoku* (meaning star) BBQ chicken halves prepared and cooked by 50th State Poultry and rolls of Maki Sushi handmade and delivered by sushi chef.

A lot goes into preparing for a fundraiser that requires the handling of food. A portable sink is set up which is a



Waiting for customers



The sales team (members of the Y's Men and Women's Club of Honolulu-Nuuanu)

Department of Health requirement. At least one individual present needs to have a Food Handler certificate, and a permit for the event is needed as well.

The chicken is cooked early that morning, *huli* (meaning turn) style. Members then begin the process of bagging each, sometimes very hot, half chickens into individual bags. The bags are counted and again bagged into sets of 2, 3, 4, and 5 half-chicken bags to make it easier to pass out when people come to pick up their purchases.

It will be a day well spent, knowing that the funds we raise will go to help pay for future monetary commitments for the Y and for Y's Men's service endeavours, both locally and globally. Not to mention that the chicken and sushi are also wonderfully delicious!

Submitted by Phyllis Popovich

## FROM THE AREAS

# Korea: One Visit, Two Missions Accomplished

“Killing two birds with one stone” is an old adage that means “achieving two ends with one single effort.” This is what the Korea Y’s Men overseas medical service team did in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 8 to 15 September.

A team of 23 trained medical personnel including six doctors from Kyung Hee Central Hospital treated 1,210 patients and performed 15 surgeries with general anesthesia in the course of a week. Thanks to the advanced skills of the YMI Doctors, a large number of people – an average of 250 a day – availed treatment and surgery.



Patient registration process in full swing

The YMI Doctors performed the first laparoscopic surgery since the unit opened in Ulaanbaatar First National Hospital, which contributed to the quality of Mongolian medical care by attracting local medical staff. Additionally, the doctors also performed complex orthopedic surgeries, such as for setting aright femoral fractures, spinal disc rupture, as well as hip and knee arthroplasty. These are not commonly done in Mongolia.



Patients waiting to register

Korea Area President Kim Sang-chaе endeavored to impart advanced surgical techniques by working with local medical personnel through complex orthopedic surgery procedures. Although it was difficult due to the relatively poor medical facilities and equipment, the operations were successfully completed by the YMI Doctors. They also donated USD 23,300 worth of medical supplies specially brought in from Korea, spreading love, care and concern across the border.



Medical professionals performing a highly skilled job

### Extension

Despite the busy medical service schedule, AP Kim Sang-chaе found time to strengthen YMI in Mongolia by providing training for the two newly-chartered clubs – the Ulaanbaatar Center club and Khovd club. The Ulaanbaatar Center club has been chartered with 32 members and has now expanded to 45 members. The Khovd club started with 20 members and has now expanded to 88 members.



A meeting of the Ulaanbaatar Center club

What’s unique about the two clubs is that the Ulaanbaatar Center Club, whose theme is “With action and in truth” comprises doctors from Ulaanbaatar. AP Kim Sang-chaе said “it is important for YMI doctors to visit and serve, but the



AP Kim Sang-chaе addressing the Khovd club members

solution to the poor environment is to educate local doctors and improve the fundamental quality of medical care.” The first president of Khovd club, whose theme is “Y’s Men Save Mongolia” is

an advisor to the Mongolian president. He helped Korean Y’s Men tremendously in performing the overseas medical service and actively participated in all the processes.

Submitted by Korea Area Office



Korea YMI doctors with the Ulaanbaatar City club members



## FROM THE AREAS

# Korea: Briquettes in Winter to Fight the Cold

Region Chonbuk led by RD Ji Sung-eun has rendered a unique service by distributing 50,000 briquettes, an item much needed in winter, to about 100 needy neighbourhoods in the province on 2 November. This was assisted by several volunteers.

The briquette distribution service was



Passing on the briquettes to the needy

organised by 36 Y's Men's Clubs in Korea Chonbuk Region, consisting of five Districts. The theme adopted by the Region this year is "Y's Men Through Innovation." More than 1,000 members have signed up and execute over 100 volunteer service activities each year. In addition to the briquette sharing service,



Meeting in the town square prior to the event

the Region also repaired or replaced old boilers in more than 10 households.

Both these activities contributed greatly to the popularity of Y's Men International, thanks to media coverage (KBS, JTV, and local newspapers) of the event.

Submitted by Korea Area Office



Smiling volunteers from Chonbuk Region

## Korea: Spreading Warmth and Love

The Y's Men of Gwangju Alpha club shared precious moments of happiness and warmth on a pleasant day in September with migrant children and toddlers at the Centre for Multicultural Migrants, which not only welcomes and houses multicultural families but also

foreign workers and international students.

Clothes collected by our members were distributed and we also shared hamburgers with them, thanks to the efforts of the Chairman, Jang Shin-young.

It was a joyous moment for many to

see the children happy while enjoying the food. We feel we need more warm hearts to share and understand the agonies faced by multicultural families. It is only then that their wellbeing will be addressed and they will be fully integrated into Korean society better.



The Y's Men of Gwangju Alpha club and the gifts they carried for the children

## Thailand: Northeastern Flood Victims Get Help



The Y's Men's Club of Chiangmai and the Chiangmai YMCA donated money and essential items to help the victims of floods in northeastern Thailand. Pictures above show the members and volunteers getting the materials ready for distribution at the Chiangmai YMCA premises.

**FROM THE AREAS**

**Hong Kong: Extension and Service Beyond Borders**

DG Joan Wong of Hong Kong District led a team of club members and relatives from the Y's Men's Club of Island East to Nepal and sponsored the charter of the Y Service Club of Lumbini on 12 October 2019 at Red House Resort, Nawalparasi in Gandaki Province.

APE/ASD-Extension David Lua, IPAT James Kong and ASD Rose

Yun from Asia Pacific Area also joined. APE David Lua led the Charter ceremony and inducted 19 members into the new club.

The following day, all visiting members, with arrangements organised by new CP Deepak Bhandari and his fellow-members, visited more than 10 orphanages and needy children in Nawalparasi. School bags, clothes and

some food boxes were donated to the children.

Other than this community service, all visiting members enjoyed the wonderful fellowship during the visiting days with a lot of Nepali food, sightseeing and special festive blessings from the Nepali families.

CP Harrison Cheng  
Island East Club, Hong Kong



With the members of the Lumbini club after the Charter presentation ceremony



Visitors with a Nepali family



At the orphanage with the children and staff

**Canada: Wishing All a Very Happy Christmas**



This is Christmas Season! Clubs around the world are celebrating and raising funds for community service activities. Congratulations to Pictou County Y Service Club (Women) honorary Grand Marshals in New Glasgow Christmas annual parade for building the great float promoting Y Service work



# MANTRA FOR THE SOUL

Max Ediger\*

## The Twisted Pistol of Cambodia

Cambodia is a land with a very long history. Like all countries, some of that history has left deep scars on the people which will probably never be completely healed. From 1975 to 1979, the country was controlled by the Khmer Rouge. During that four-year period some two million people died from political executions, starvation and forced labor. There is not one family in Cambodia that did not endure this terrible suffering.

Since 1979 the country has been struggling to rebuild and there has been much progress. Rich in culture and energy, life has come back for the majority of the people. Markets thrive, new buildings are being constructed, schools and universities are full of eager students, and the NGO (Non-Government Organisation) movement is strong and healthy.

Yet, fear and distrust remain. War always leaves behind a legacy of wounds that cry out for healing. More than 30 years after the fighting stopped, landmines still cover some areas of potentially rich farmland. Children become victims to the unexploded mines, losing arms, legs, eyes or very abruptly their lives.

The country was also saturated with guns of all kinds and they caused much misery as there was no control over them and they very often became the means of settling disputes.

Around 1997 the government called for people to turn in their weapons as a way of ridding the country of at least some of the remnants of the long and bloody war. Thousands did, and some of these weapons were melted down to create the Twisted Gun sculpture that now rests in a central location in Phnom



Penh. This sculpture, unveiled in May 1998, has become a symbol of the dreams of a peaceful county and a peaceful future for the people.

Another project also continues reflecting the hopes of the Khmer people

for peace. The Peace Art Project Cambodia uses triggers, gun barrels and rifle butts to create a variety of works of art. The art students who work on the projects are all survivors of the civil war that destroyed so much of the country. Turning weapons of destruction into these intriguing art pieces is a unique way of “turning swords into plowshares.” It illustrates that all of the resources God has given us can be either used for beauty or for war. The decision is up to us how we will manage these resources. For some Cambodia people transforming the materials that killed so many of their neighbours and family members and left such deep scars across the country can be a healing process, not just for themselves but for all those who take the time to view their work and reflect deeply on the human responsibility to build hope and peace.

### Japan Needs Our Support



In the recent past, Japan has been ravaged by typhoons and earthquakes. Y's Men in Region Japan West and Region Japan East have joined hands to be engaged in rehabilitating and rebuilding the lives of those affected by natural disasters.

They have appealed to us to support them in their efforts. YMI is pleased to recognise their efforts and request all members to contribute whatever is possible. Details are found on the back cover page of this issue.



*invites*

**Club leaders to send stories of activities undertaken with one or more high-resolution pictures and appropriate captions. Write-ups must not exceed 150 words.**

**Readers are also requested to send their views and notes on matters of concern for the Movement, globally.**

**Submit your stories and pictures at:  
[www.ysmen.org/ymiworl](http://www.ysmen.org/ymiworl)**

**Last date for submission for next issue:  
28 February 2020**

\*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia.

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## Positive Net YMCA / Y's Fundraising

To support the affected areas  
by Typhoon No. 15 (Faxai)  
and Typhoon No. 19 (Hagibis)

“Positive Net”

is the network of good-willed  
proactive people, respecting individuality  
and bringing out the best of one another.  
YMCA with the cooperation of Y's Men's  
Clubs helps people support each other,  
and we are promoting the activities  
which can change the energy generated  
from helping each other



The volunteer work by YMCA and YMC at Marumori Town



The residence of YM Ichiro Suzuki, DG of Hokuriku District, Japan East Region, was offered for volunteer activities.

**Donation Period      October 17, 2019 ~ March 31, 2020**

The typhoon No.15 (Faxai) that raged around Chiba Prefecture on September 9 and the Typhoon No.19 (Hagibis) that crossed the Kanto region and Fukushima Prefecture on October 12 have caused tremendous damage over a wide area. Hagibis caused 92 deaths, 9 missing people, levee breaks up to 52 rivers and 73 locations including by the flood caused by the heavy rain later.

In addition to supporting volunteer work in the affected areas, we will continue to assist people to overcome difficulties, especially we will stay close to children who have been deprived of their daily lives, from a medium- to long-term perspective. Aiming to support the reconstruction of the community, we will develop activities that take advantage of the nationwide network and characteristics.

Recovery/  
Reconstruction  
Support  
Volunteer  
Work, etc.

Invitation to  
“Refresh  
Camps” and  
Programs

Recreation  
Activities and  
Mental Care for  
Children

**Fund-raising Target**  
**30 million yen**

### We welcome your donation

To the residents outside Japan:  
Contributing directly to the National Council of  
YMCAs of Japan by credit card online is the  
easiest way of giving.

Donation site (English)  
[https://srv.asp-bridge.net/ymca\\_km/index/](https://srv.asp-bridge.net/ymca_km/index/)

