



# SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club  
Y Clubs International  
Mid East Region  
February 15, 2013

## OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the Christian teachings, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA, its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

## CLUB OFFICERS

**Pres:** Peter Chadwick  
**Pres. Elect:** Neil Topliffe  
**Secretary:** Ethan Ray  
**Treasurer:** Bob Smith  
**Asst. Treas:** Tom Johnson

## BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Howell  
Mark Radtke  
Harry Capogna  
Bob Williams  
Past Pres: John Duiven

## ACTIVITY CHAIRS

**Chaplin:** Gary Davis  
**Run Thru the Rapids:**  
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie  
**Santa Claus Girls:**  
Bob Smith  
**White Elephant Sale:**  
Gregory Winer, Chair  
**Sparks Editor:**  
Neil Topliffe  
[Sparks Editor](#)

President Pete Chadwick called the club together. Bill Phillips offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Birthdays** were recognized and **Grateful Dollars** were received. **Guests:** Lois Feichtenbinder (Bill Smith), Leta Kharmai, mother of speaker

## Club News

- Recent new member Ken Haines shared with the club his background, family and work information (see next page).
- Thanks to our Y bookkeeper Lorrie Jaynes who treated us with yummy homemade sugar cookies.
- Greg Winer said work at WES site continues on Saturdays at 9 am. Needed are committee volunteers. WES meeting at Y 4 pm Monday, 2/25.
- Thoughts and prayers were asked for Gary Mescher's 91 year old father, who had surgery 2/15.
- Next meeting is March 1, **Dan Behm** – President, OST, "*Small Business Success Story*," see details page 3. **Invite a friend!**
- **Board meeting:** March 20, 5:30 pm at Pinnacle Insurance.

## White Elephant Sale Schedule

**\*\* WES meeting @ Y Monday 2/25 4 pm \*\***

**3460 N. Plainfield Ave – same as last year**

**Workdays Saturdays 9 am**

**Sale April 26-27**

**Chairperson: [Greg Winer](#)**

**Vice Chairperson: [Bill Streeter](#)**

**It's time to contact your donors and volunteer for committees. Check your emails from Greg for documents.**

## Did you know?

**2013 Y Service Club USA  
Convention  
Las Vegas,  
July 18-21, 2013.**

Learn more about our  
International & USA work,  
enjoy Vegas entertainment  
See More Details and  
Registration Form attached.



Find us on  
Facebook

[-White Elephant Sale](#)  
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

**Grand Rapids Y Service Club**  
475 Lake Michigan Dr NW  
Grand Rapids MI 49505  
[www.gryserviceclub.org](http://www.gryserviceclub.org)  
[www.runthrutherapids.com](http://www.runthrutherapids.com)  
is a member of  
Y Service Clubs International.  
[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)



## Making your Own 9-5

What do you do when, as a new graduate from GVSU, you find yourself with lots of skills and energy but facing no prospects for employment? That's just what our speaker, Nadira Kharmai faced three years ago but that didn't stop her career goals.

With the encouragement of her parents, the insights of "seasoned business people," lots of prayer and personal strength, Nardira formed Empress Productions. Drawing upon her broadcasting career, intern experiences at two NBC affiliates, she began to create her niche business as a video creator/producer.

In the process Nadira built her business plan, techniques and community contacts. "I grew in the process and my community grew also," said Kharmai. With her youthful zeal and some bumps along the way, she sees her business now focusing on not-for-profits such as the Y and Goodwill, current clients. She values their focus and sense of creativity.

Nadira is excitedly producing the Camp Manitou-Lin 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video. She currently is collecting stories from campers that she finds exciting and inspiring. A shorter clip, "Legacy" can be seen at <http://bit.ly/URpZJA>

## Introducing Ken Haines



We welcome Ken to our club, having joined in November. Ken is married (Sara) with a son, Chris, and a daughter, Katie. He is a graduate of Alma College and a member of Park Congregational (UCC) Church. He is CFO at Kamps Pallets in Grand Rapids. His first 5 years out of college were at Touche Ross public accounting firm, followed by 13 years at Foremost Insurance Company before moving to Wolverine Worldwide for 11 years.

Ken and Sara live in Rockford. His email address: [kchaines40@gmail.com](mailto:kchaines40@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Speakers

**Mar. 15 Mike McCarthy** – President, DDM Marketing

**Mar. 29 To be announced**

**Apr. 12 Elizabeth Topliffe** – Stepping Stones Montessori

**Y Service Club  
Endowment Fund  
Gift Ideas**

At our board meeting last week, president Pete Chadwick reported that we are within \$1,200 of reaching our \$10,000 goal to establish a permanent Y Service Club Endowment Fund. This fund means that every year in perpetuity interest from the principal will go to Camp Manitou-Lin. It's the kind of gift "that keeps on giving," even when we are long gone!

**Consider**

- Giving some or all of your tax refund this year to the YSC Endowment Fund. Send a check to Bob Smith, treasurer, marked "YSC Endowment Fund."

**Behm to Discuss "Small Business Success Story"**

Dan Behm, president of Open Systems Technology will discuss practical examples of how OST, a company in Grand Rapids, built their image & brand over the past ten years and gain ideas on how to do the same for your company or client. OST is not your typical technology company and their marketing strategies do not always follow conventional rules – learn to dare and take chances. In the end, it's all about leveraging creativity to produce an award winning culture and brand while at the same time increasing profitability!

**3 Takeaways:**

1. How to interject creativity into your brand
2. Making a small business appear larger
3. How a unique corporate culture can lead to increased productivity and low turnover

Behm has been President of OST since he and Jim VanderMey started the company in January 1997. In the beginning, OST was a \$5 million hardware sales company that depended heavily on one partner. Dan along with his team diversified OST, transforming it into a \$60 million leader in the industry. Today, it's an info technology company, with an award winning culture, driven by professional services.

After graduating with honors from Michigan State University's Eli Broad School of Business with a BA degree in business administration, Dan began a career with IBM that lasted ten years. At IBM, he was Senior Buyer, Manufacturing Engineer, Systems Engineer, Advisory Sales Rep. Dan spent one year at IBM's world-renowned marketing school for Sales Reps and Systems Engineers. He joined G/S Leasing Inc., where he was part of the leasing team for five years before birthing two technology companies and eventually OST. Over the past two decades, Dan has worked with over 500 customers and partners in the technology marketplace and now uses his broad scope of experience to meet the needs of each of his clients.

Dan was presented with the E&Y Entrepreneur of The Year Award (for the technology category) for Michigan and Northern Ohio in 2011. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for the HP division of Arrow ECS, an \$800 Million distributor of HP hardware and software. In addition, Dan was named to the Board of Directors of the Metro Health Foundation in 2011 for his second three year term.

# US AREA CONVENTION



**July 18 - 21 2013**

**Hampton Inn Tropicana**

**Registration Fee of \$200.00 per person includes:**

- ✓ First Class Convention Center
- ✓ Free shuttle to McCarran Airport
- ✓ Lunch Friday and Saturday
- ✓ Dinner Friday and Saturday Night
- ✓ Free Breakfast every day
- ✓ Free shuttle to the Tropicana and Mandalay Bay Casinos
- ✓ Entertaining Speakers and Forums
- ✓ Concurrent Youth Convocation
- ✓ Possible Elvis sightings
- ✓ 5 Free Stamp Pins for each Club Attendee with over 25% participation from that Club
- ✓ Fellowship and FUN!

HEY FOLKS ... Time to plan on attending the **US AREA CONVENTION** at the **Hampton Inn Tropicana** in fabulous **Las Vegas**. This July 18 - 21, 2013 will bring YMI fellowship, sharing of Club success and toasting our Area Leadership, as we convene in the city where FUN is Right.

The Convention planning committee has been planning for a quality event. We had a little trouble nailing down the costs, (taxes and all), but we are sure that the Registration fee is a good value and the setting is outstanding for our duty to have FUN.

The hotel offers premium meeting room facilities great amenities (pool, gym) and it' s close to the 'Strip' and all the world-class attractions LV is famous for. You will be engaged, enlightened and entertained.

The Pacific Southwest Region is your hosts, and we are looking forward to making this the best Area Convention ever. Trust us, the 2013 US AREA Convention is sure to be ...

***The Y' sest bet in Vegas!***

## Preliminary Program

### Thurs., July 18

Afternoon  
Evening  
Registration Opens  
'Dutch Treat' Buffet  
Slot Tournament

### Fri., July 19

Morning  
Noon  
Afternoon  
Evening  
Opening Ceremony  
Fellowship Forums  
Lunch, Awards  
Vegas Time  
Dinner  
Good Times

### Sat., July 20

Morning  
Noon  
Afternoon  
Evening  
Local Community Forums  
Lunch, Awards  
Brotherhood Forums  
Dinner  
Great Times

### Sun., July 21

Morning  
Worship Service  
Closing Ceremony

# 2013 US AREA CONVENTION

July 18 – 21, 2013

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Convention Site and Lodging: **Hampton Inn Tropicana**

4975 Dean Martin Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89118-1956

**To Reserve a room call: (702) 948-8100**

Hotel Rooms are \$84 per night plus 12% tax (Single/Double Occupancy). Shoulder nights – same price! Parking is free. An additional person will be charged \$25.00/person, up to 4 persons/room.

Each attendee is responsible for making Hotel reservations with the HOTEL. Mention **Y Service Clubs International US Area**.

**VERY IMPORTANT** ... To assure accommodations at the convention hotel, please make your reservation by **June 13, 2013** at which time our block of rooms will be released.

**Questions?** Contact: Tim Singletary, Committee Chairman, (818) 342-0257

[timsingletary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:timsingletary@sbcglobal.net)

OR: Eldon Thorp, Registrar, (714) 846-6105

[et4@juno.com](mailto:et4@juno.com)

The **REGISTRATION FEE** is **\$200** per person

Please make checks payable to the **Pacific Southwest Region**

cut on dotted line and return bottom portion

Submitter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Names** as they are to appear on name tags:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ P R Y I F G A B

2. \_\_\_\_\_ P R Y I F G A B

3. \_\_\_\_\_ P R Y I F G A B

4. \_\_\_\_\_ P R Y I F G A B

Codes: **P** - Club President: **R** - Regional Officer: **Y** - YMCA Professional: **I** - International Officer

**F** - First Convention: **G** - Guest: **A** - Area Officer: **B** - Brotherhood Fund Delegate

Please list **special dietary needs** or anything else that will help us make your experience a **GREAT** one:

\_\_\_\_\_(If needed, use other side or other paper)

Send completed Registration with payment to:

**Eldon Thorp**, 16352 Arlington Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-2607