



# SPARKS

*White Elephant Sale Special Edition*

**Grand Rapids Y Service Club**

**Y Clubs International**

**Mid East Region**

**April 12, 2013**

Henry Capogna called the club together following a buffet lunch. Brad Howell offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 33 members and guests in attendance.

**Birthdays** were recognized (**Bill Garrett & Loyd Winer**) and **Grateful Dollars** were received.

New Member: **Pat Miles Sr** was welcomed into the club.

**Guests: Sandy Topliffe, Gail DeYoung & Jay Schoettley** (Neil Topliffe) and **Susan Winer** (Loyd Winer).

## 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](#)

## Club News

- **Greg Dodd** invited members to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Camp Manitou-Lin on June 8, 11:30 am – 4 pm. A short program and presentations will be made at 2 pm. Lunch is included – RSVP [Emily via email](#) by June 1.
- **Greg Winer** called upon everyone to help out at WES sale site – lots still needs to be done. Thursday night members/volunteers can buy things 7-8:30 pm. Be sure to attend members/volunteers dinner at the site at 5:30 pm Saturday.
- **Time of Fast Campaign** – Bob Williams handed out TOF results from past years; more will be shared at next meeting.

## Andy DenBarber – May 10 Speaker

Hear from the [Heartside Ministry](#) Executive Director.

## THANKS for a Highly Successful

### White Elephant Sale

Preliminary gross sales totaled more than \$71,000, one of our most successful in the 75 year history of this fund raiser for Camp Manitou-Lin. (See wrap-up story & photos – pages 3-5)

[Go to Online Sale Photos](#); [Go to Online Dinner Photos](#)

## Congrats ...

To club member **John Carruthers** who was highlighted by the Literacy Center of W. Michigan as a volunteer tutor since 2012, “helping improve literacy in our community.” (4/21/13 GR Press)



Find us on  
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[-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.runthrurapids.com](http://www.runthrurapids.com)

is a member of  
Y Service Clubs International.

[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)



## Love for Learning - Montessori Focus

“When children leave us we want them to have a continuing love for learning,” said our April 12 speaker, Elizabeth Topliffe, who is the Head of School at [Stepping Stones Montessori School](#) on North College in Grand Rapids.



Using actual teaching items used in the classroom and demonstrating the tactile, motor and intuitive process, our speaker introduced those in attendance to the philosophy and science of the Montessori style of education today for

pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Elizabeth noted that the use of tactile teaching tools used by the children themselves build on the fact that mental development is tied to motor development.



The Montessori method of education, Topliffe explained, draws upon the scientific approach of Madame Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, who brought her scientific background to use in designing an educational model used world-wide today.



A photo used by Elizabeth reflects what a person's body would look like if each part grew in proportion to the area of the cortex of the brain concerned with

its movement. That reality impacts the way in which Montessori engages children in learning, she noted.

## Upcoming Speakers

**May 24 Milt Rohwer** – Former Director of DDA – City Planning  
30 years ago – A Magical Time

**Jun. 7 Dan Gaydou** – President of MLive Media Group

**Jun. 21 Induction & Election** – New officers & New Members

## Support Time of Fast?



In coming weeks we will be invited to participate in the annual Time of Fast program that has been a long time part of Y's Service Clubs International work around the world. In the past few years our club has raised \$5,600. Bob Williams will be leading the campaign this year.

## Tid Bits from Sale

**Any of you who worked the White Elephant Sale can add your own quotes. These are ones I heard. - Neil**

**"We've been coming to this sale for years, from Muskegon. It's the best of the lot."**

**"Last year I bought one of your bed headboards and customized it with fabric into a designer showcase bed. Covers from these old leather books will become framed wall pieces this year. My Ideas won't stop when I'm here."**

**"I was a camper at Manitou-Lin from 1954-59. It was a life changing experience for me. What you do is terrific."**

**"We have just moved here from Eastern Michigan two weeks ago. I'd like to be a volunteer and help out next year."**

**"You are doing the kind of thing that I'd like to be part of. How can I get involved?"**

## White Elephant Sale Hits a New High

### Dinner Brings Out Cowboy Comics

OK, who would ever have expected our easy going, level-headed, usually serious, very organized and efficient White Elephant Sale chairperson, to come flying across the sale site floor, riding a broomstick hobby horse and shouting out, "YaaaaaHooooooo, pardners, glad ya'll could come tonight!?"



But that wasn't the biggest surprise coming from Greg Winer. The big one was announcing that this year's gross income, as of the end of the sale, was

\$71,000 with more to be added. Dick Kopersky, former member and long time volunteer got the prize for guessing in advance the closest amount to the actual income total, \$70,896.

Greg and "pardner" Bill Streeter – next year's WES chair - praised the women and men who spent hundreds of hours collecting, unpacking, sorting, pricing and selling the store full of treasures.

A tradition begun in 2012 continued this year with last year's winner, Al George, presenting the Green Blazer & Red Hat to the one(s) who have given so much to make the White Elephant Sale successful. Congratulations go to Wally and Mary Ann Andersen.



There were several records to applaud this year, in addition to raising one of the highest, if not highest sales



income in the 75 year history of the White Elephant Sale (Old-timers, please correct the editor if there were higher totals in the past). Bob Williams and his assistants sold 350 Early Bird tickets raising an extra \$1,750. Marjorie and Bob Smith generated a strong stream from the concession stand.

Ethan Ray sold a skid of paper towel dispensers and an automatic envelope opener on eBay that brought in another \$2,000.

Thanks to Greg Dodd and volunteer Dirk we even had a "new" boat division, Boats, most being recycled from Camp Manitou-Lin, generated \$2,000 plus.

(continued)



**A final pep talk before the crowds take over**



**Early Bird ticket buyers**



**Never too early to buy baby books**



**Wow, can you imagine the time it took to sort this stuff?**



**WES draws all ages**

These folks only illustrate how every volunteer and division contributed equally or more to the huge total. It's the wives, mothers, families and past members of the Y Service Club that dig in to make the sale work. We members are extremely thankful because we know that what has happened over all these years would never be possible without the majority of you who volunteer.

**... In coming years "we need to change ... that \$71,000 could have been \$75,000-80,000 ..."**

Greg gave us a final challenge. "We need to change as well. That \$71,000 could have been \$75-80,000 if we were able to accept debit or credit cards. We are a cashless society, especially when it comes to our kids and grandkids and their families. That's the challenge for us as we move forward."



**Who is the REAL Woody??**



**Al George, hands down!**



**L to R: Greg Winer, Al George, Wally & Mary Ann Andersen, Henry Capogna**

See More Photos Online – Click on item below to select

- [White Elephant Sale](#)
- [White Elephant Sale Dinner](#)
- [Facebook Page](#) – includes photos and comments



*"I'll give you Boardwalk and Park Place in exchange, OK?"*



*Mary Baxter and mom know how to make a boy's day. What a smile.*



*"Can't you just see Sweetie-Pie in this?"*



*Move those supplies*



*Shoppers everywhere*



*It's a Koperski Slugger one-of-kind baseball bat*



*"Now where in tarnation are we going to put that!?"*



*Back door security guards*



*Maybe they'll have jeans as well*



*One table down – keep them coming*



*Looks like Walmart on Black Friday*



*Out the door it goes*