



SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Clubs International

Mid East Region

May 10, 2013

Pete Chadwick called the club together following a buffet lunch. Syd Baxter offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 39 members and guests in attendance.

Birthdays were recognized (**Pete Chadwick & Greg Winer**) and **Grateful Dollars** were received.

Guests: Mansfield Matthewson (Bob Williams), **Chuck Strahan** (Wally Andersen).

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 Winer** thanked everyone for helping make the White Elephant Sale successful with gross sales reaching approximately \$74,000. A final cleanup is planned for tomorrow at the site.
- **Time of Fast Campaign** – Bob Williams will share more at an upcoming meeting.
- **Camp Manitou-Lin** – Syd Baxter reminded members to attend the 100th anniversary celebration at Camp Manitou-Lin on June 8, 11:30 am – 4 pm. A presentation will be made at 2 pm. Lunch is included – RSVP [Emily via email](#) by June 1.
- Bob Williams shared “The Lanyard” in honor of Mother’s Day (see copy page 3).

Speaker May 24: Milt Rohwer – Former Director of DDA – “City Planning 30 years ago – A Magical Time.”

A THANK-YOU STEAK FRY at CAMP MANITOU-LIN

Wednesday, June 26 – 6:00 pm

It's a thank-you for all members and spouses
plus all volunteers who worked prior to and during the
White Elephant Sale. Be the guests of the camp and staff.

Put it on your calendar now

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.



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
www.runthrurapids.com
is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.
www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



5/10/13

Being "Family" in Heart of Grand Rapids

Heart is the key word. It's called Heartside Ministry. It's located in the heart of the Heartside Neighborhood. But the real sense of the word came alive when our two speakers spoke about the services of their ministry and how, for 1,500 people a year, it becomes the closest to family that many of those who are homeless have as they rebuild their lives.

Rev. Andy DeBraber, Executive Director of Heartside Ministry noted, "Homeless is not a problem of shelter, it's a problem of relationships. It's when you no longer are able to call anyone to ask to sleep on their couch for a few nights." That is where Heartside fits in, not providing shelter or meals – other organizations in the neighborhood provide those services – but to begin building their self-confidence and offering support.



"The most difficult thing that we hear over and over from those who are homeless," DeBraber said, "is feeling judged." Their words are, "I'm judged every minute of every day." The difference at Heartside was expressed by one participant, "When I walked through Heartside's door the first time I found the love here I've been looking for all my life." It's being family – the heart in Heartside.

Heartside Ministry, 54 South Division, is a day center that provides enriching activities including an Art Center and Pottery Studio, Writer's Circle, free legal advice, Alcohol and Narcotics Anonymous, computer resource center, Bible study, and worship. Begun by the Reformed Church, it now is supported by many Grand Rapids churches and is inter-denominational.

A first-hand experience was shared by Dennis, one of Heartside's members. An artist and writer who has used Heartside services, Dennis now is one of the community leaders. "The best thing that happened to me was Heartside Ministry." Dennis lost his job because of health issues. "I was angry at God and had given up my writing until a friend got me to go to Heartside," he added. Dennis now is a key player in "Spoon" community newspaper.

Heartside Ministry budget is \$380,000 with 75% from donors. The past few months has seen a 30% increase in monthly visits to 2,000 plus, which is stretching their ability to serve the community.

Upcoming Speakers

Jun. 7 Bob Gillette – Mission to Guatemala

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

Debbie Redmond – US Area President-Elect

Jun. 26 Steak Fry – Camp Manitou-Lin

**We are Hosts!
Mid-East Training
Meeting**



Saturday, June 22

**David D Hunting Y
Grand Rapids
Cost: \$15.00
Includes luncheon**

Don't Miss

- Club President Training
- Building Membership
- Effective Fundraising

Workshop Leaders

- Debbie Redmond, USA Area President-Elect & St Louis Bookfair
- White Elephant Sale Leaders from Gr. Rapids & Muskegon

John Carruthers, Mid-East Director is heading this effort up. It looks like a great event. Let's give our support by participating.

Participants are expected from Columbus, Ohio, Muskegon and other clubs in our area.

"The Lanyard"

The other day as I was ricocheting slowly
off the pale blue walls of this room,
bouncing from typewriter to piano,
from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,
I found myself in the L section of the dictionary
where my eyes fell upon the word lanyard.

No cookie nibbled by a French novelist
could send one more suddenly into the past –
a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp
by a deep Adirondack lake
learning how to braid thin plastic strips
into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.

I had never seen anyone use a lanyard
or wear one, if that's what you did with them,
but that did not keep me from crossing
strand over strand again and again
until I had made a boxy
red and white lanyard for my mother.

She gave me life and milk from her breasts,
and I gave her a lanyard.
She nursed me in many a sickroom,
lifted teaspoons of medicine to my lips,
set cold face-cloths on my forehead,
and then led me out into the airy light

and taught me to walk and swim,
and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard.
Here are thousands of meals, she said,
and here is clothing and a good education.
And here is your lanyard, I replied,
which I made with a little help from a counselor.

Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,
strong legs, bones and teeth,
and two clear eyes to read the world, she whispered,
and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp.
And here, I wish to say to her now,
Is a smaller gift--not the archaic truth--

That you can never repay your mother,
but the rueful admission that when she took
the two-tone lanyard from my hands,
I was as sure as a boy could be
that this useless, worthless thing I wove
out of boredom would be enough to make us even.

Billy Collins