



The Oak Leaf

Newsletter of the
UNION COUNTY HIKING CLUB

Volume 36 Number 1

SPRING 2013

Union County Hiking Club

75th Anniversary Celebration

JUNE 15, 2013 • 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

At Craigmear Recreation Complex • Rain or Shine in a Covered Pavilion with a Catered Lunch

- ◆ Members \$10, guests \$10. Paid-up members will have the \$10 applied to the following year's dues if they attend the event.
- ◆ **Complete and return the registration form on the last page of this newsletter.** All registrations must be received by May 10, 2013, as we must have the final number and payment in full for the caterer by then. Registrations received after that date will be returned.
- ◆ There will be no refunds for no-shows. The \$10 will be a charge and not credited to your dues. If you need to cancel, you must do so by May 10 to receive a refund.

Directions to Craigmear

Recreation Center, 1175 Green Pond Road, Rockaway, NJ. Coordinates: N41° 01.32', W74° 27.48'.

From Route I-80: I-80 to Exit 37, sign: "Hibernia Rockaway CR 513." Turn north on CR 513 (Green Pond

Road) towards Hibernia. Go north on Green Pond Road for about 9.5 miles to Craigmear Recreation Area entrance on left.

From Route NJ-23 north: From I-287, go north on NJ-23 for about 9 miles. Pass Union Valley Road on right and Shell gas station on the island between NJ-23 north and south. Continue 0.3 miles to sign "Larue Rd. Green Pond CR-513." Turn right onto ramp, then left at tee and cross NJ-23 north to NJ-23 south (513 S). Proceed south for 0.1 mile to first right turn after the Delta gas station onto Green Pond Road. Proceed 2.1 miles to Craigmear Recreation Area entrance on right.

We are in the Blue Area in a large red pavilion. Follow the signs for the Blue Parking and then signs for the Blue Area. There will be two hikes and a walk. Rain may cancel the hikes and the walk, but not the picnic.

Four Birds Trail Hike — Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475 or 973-901-0824 (cell on day of hike). A 4- to 5-mile hike at a moderate pace over mostly smooth ground with some ups and downs. We will hike past Beaver Pond and have a view of Splitrock Reservoir. Meet at 10 AM at the Visitors' Parking Lot on Upper Hibernia Road in Farny State Park. Do not be confused by the lack of a building. Hike will end at 12:15 in time for us to arrive at the picnic around 12:30-12:45, when the organizers want us to arrive.

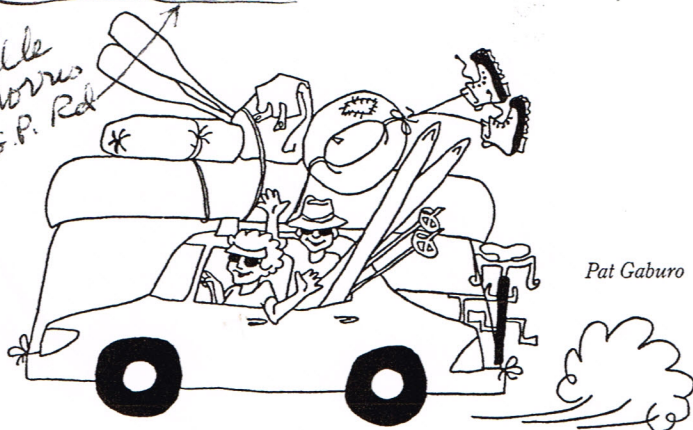
Egbert Lake Hike — Leader: Pete Beck, 201-274-4471, petebeck_00@yahoo.com. Meet: 10 AM at Egbert Lake. Directions: I-80 to exit 37, CR 513/Green Pond Road; go toward Hibernia for 7.1 miles. Parking lot will be on the left just past the lake. The sign is hard to see. We will hike about 3 miles, with a 300-foot elevation gain.

Marie Taranto will lead a walk around the grounds and nature trails to leave from the Pavilion at 10:30 AM.

There are many opportunities for sports such as tennis, horseshoes, volleyball, ping-pong, softball, basketball and more at Craigmear. You must, however, bring your own equipment if you want to enjoy them. A map of the facility can be found at http://craigmear.com/map_grounds.htm.

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30 mi
10 min

Rt 53 to
Denville
I-80 or Morris
Ave to G.P. Rd



UNION COUNTY HIKING CLUB 2013

OFFICERS

President: Terry Kulmane
Vice President: Ellie King
Treasurer: Eck Khoon Goh
Recording Secretary: Patricia Gaburo
Schedule Coordinator: Gail Biggs
Trails Chairperson, NJ:
Dave Hogenauer
Trails Chairperson, NY:
Manfred Schneider
Social Chairperson: Carol O'Keefe
Nominating Chairperson:
Angela Coble
Webmaster: Carol O'Keefe

OUTING COORDINATORS

Monday Hikes: Marie Taranto
Tuesday Hikes: Alan Breach
Wednesday Hikes: Gloria Friedman
Thursday Hikes: Bob Bieri
Thursday Alternate Hikes:
Pat Gaburo
Weekend Hikes: Christi Pilot
Bike Rides: Jeanne Fletcher
Canoe Trips:
Pat Gaburo, Charlie Kientzler

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Terry Kulmane, Angela Coble,
Al MacLennan

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Eck Khoon Goh, Ellie King,
Mae Deas

DIRECTIONS COORDINATOR

Jim Canfield

THE OAK LEAF EDITOR

Fran Fountain, fountain@nj.net

The Oak Leaf is the official newsletter of the Union County Hiking Club and is published twice a year in spring and fall. Contributions (to the Editor by mail or email) are welcomed throughout the year and will be considered for the following issue. Deadlines are March 31 and September 30.

TERRY KULMANE, UCHC PRESIDENT

by Gail Biggs



This year Terry Kulmane will be completing her 13th year as President of the Union County Hiking Club. How did time go by so quickly, and how did Terry get started on her long UCHC journey? When she moved to New Providence in 1989, she saw an ad in the *Independent Press* inviting people to try a hike with the Union County Hiking Club. Her first hike with UCHC was a ramble in the Watchung Reservation led by Bill Myles, a leading giant with the club. It did not take long before she was hooked. Most weekends found her on the trails.

At that time, the Frost Valley Trail Walkers led hikes jointly on Thursdays with the UCHC. Terry found herself hiking on Thursdays whenever she had a comp day off from work. On the day she retired, the first thing that she did was to join the Frost Valley Trail Walkers. (At a later time, Frost Valley and Union County merged.)

Terry became close hiking friends with UCHC stalwarts Bill and Bertie Myles, and old family friend Herb Chertock. When Herb became President in 1991, Terry became Vice President. Unfortunately, Herb's poor health soon caused him to resign as President, and Terry took the lead.

Terry is most proud of the growth of the club during her tenure, with hikes, canoe trips and bike rides bursting from the schedule. When she began her membership in the UCHC, there were mostly Saturday hikes offered. In time, Terry oversaw the joining of Frost Valley Trail Walkers and Union County Hiking Clubs. Frost Valley brought weekday hikes and canoe trips to the UCHC schedule. Two Thursday hikes were offered, one more challenging and one more moderate. Two hikes continue to be offered on Thursdays, and attendance on both hikes has continued to be positive.

Terry's fondest memories are of the huge numbers of people enjoying hiking and other great outdoor activities. She happily remembers the many Harriman Hikes with sometimes as many as 30 people. Especially gratifying is the great amount of joy that UCHC continues to bring so many people.

Terry will be stepping down this year after 13 years as President. We thank Terry for her tireless efforts on behalf of our club and wish her well. We hope to see you on the trails, Terry!



Past presidents of UCHC —
Back row, from left:
Bill Myles (1972-73-74-75),
Marty Frahme (1981-82),
Roger DePeppe (1979-80),
Nat Levin (1976-77-78),
Jay Winslow (1986),
Fred Dlouhy (1956-57-58),
Dwight Berreman (1983-84-85).
Front row, from left:
Leslie Mills (1987-88),
Bob Evers (1969-70-71).

UCHC 75th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

by Nancy Wolff, with material from notes by the late Bill Myles and the living Lee Fanger

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ORIGINS: In the late 1930s, the Union County Park Commission, headed by Mr. F. S. Matheson, sponsored nature walks in county parks. Eight intrepid hikers met in 1938 to organize longer, more strenuous hikes. These hikers were: Elizabeth and Walter Baldwin, Florence "Peter Rabbit" Durow, Hugh Gordon, Louis and Naomi Heilbrun Rosenberg, Irma Heyer, and Max Tieger. The Union County Hiking Club was born. Walter Baldwin became the first president, and Louis Rosenberg the second.

Hikes were planned from week to week, with the County Recreation Department sending out postcard notices for each hike. Irma Heyer led the first club hike in South Mountain Reservation. By 1939, the club's schedule was being planned six months ahead. Leaders came from the ADK and WTW; eventually our club developed its own leaders.

Florence Durow, known to us as "Peter Rabbit," led gentle walks for several years. Why "Peter Rabbit"? When she was startled, PR would exclaim "Peter Rabbit!" and there's your answer. I suppose if she had said "Leapin' Lizards," that would have been the way we remember her. PR was a very sweet and unique woman. Hikers can be quite eccentric, and UCHC boasted some odd ones from the get-go. Even today . . . but I won't go there.

Irma Heyer also led club hikes. As a retired school principal, Miss Heyer could be a stern taskmaster. But Irma was a pleasant and intelligent hiking companion. She held the president's office later on.

TRAILS: In 1942 UCHC became a member of the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference. Membership required that we have a club constitution and collect dues of \$1 per year so we'd know how many members we had. In 1942 we had 25 members. The club immediately was assigned eight miles of the A.T. for maintenance, marking, and oversight. Twice a year, the club schedule included Trail Maintenance Day. Members

clipped, sawed, and cleared trails. One member, who shall remain nameless, was given paint and brush and assigned to paint standard A.T. markers along the trail. She enthusiastically splashed big, fat blobs on most of the trees in sight. When the trails chairman stopped her, reminding her that A.T. standards included markers 2 by 6 inches, and only one visible at a time, she responded, "But these are much easier to see." The paint and brush were gently taken away from her and given to another member, and our hapless hiker was re-assigned to clipping twigs. The job was more closely monitored after that.

In 1939, a year after its founding, the club schedule listed 21 events. In 1949 there were 38. Our 75th Anniversary schedule, January to June 2013, contains 200 events. Not bad for a club of 620 members!

WEEKENDS: At first, only hikes and walks were offered in the schedule. These activities led to others — weekends became popular events. For several years in the 1960s and 1970s, the club held a summer hike/swim trip to a 4H camp in Stokes State Forest. We stayed in cabins, hiked and swam, and enjoyed (and sometimes suffered) entertainment on Saturday nights. One member gave poetry recitations: "Casey at the Bat" and "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" were her favorites, and she acted out the dramatic bits. Another year we had bingo night. The Stokes weekend was discontinued, not because of questionable entertainment standards, but because of liability insurance issues. I believe that was our first encounter with the deadly insurance bug.

Children were welcome in most club activities, especially weekends. An autumn weekend in Connecticut was arranged by Charles Trelease and Jack Chard for many years. We hiked on the A.T.; we canoed on the Housatonic River; some participants camped in Macedonia State Park, and some stayed at the Lake Waramaug Inn. On Sundays we'd have a picnic.

Then a state budget cut closed some state parks. UCHC moved on.

We held some camping weekends in Pennsylvania. Here's the late Betty Levin remembering (what else?) her grandson's camping trip: "Our grandson Stephen wanted to go overnight camping, but he wasn't toilet trained. So we said he couldn't come with us. The next weekend he announced, 'Grandma, I can go with you now. I am trained.'

"He went with us on a Pennsylvania weekend led by Irene Minnick and Mary Ann Schmidt." Bill Myles recalled that when it was time for the Levin grandchild to go to bed, his grandpa Nat was given that chore. Man and boy went into the dark, and time passed. Soon the little one came back to the campsite. "Where is Grandpa?" we asked. "He's asleep," the boy responded.

Holiday weekends were another high point of the hiking year: Memorial Day weekend in the Catskills; July Fourth in the White Mountains of New Hampshire; and Labor Day in the Green Mountains of Vermont or, in alternate years, in the Adirondacks. One memory especially stands out: a spectacular display of northern lights at Johns Brook Lodge. In Vermont, the "Infamous Dick Wolff Death March" was remembered by hikers for many years. Seems that Dick computed the day's mileage but didn't factor in the altitude gains, so at 8 p.m. we staggered out of the woods too late for dinner at our lodge. Fortunately, we found a steak house willing to serve us at that hour.

On one July Fourth weekend in the White Mountains, a thunderstorm hit when we were atop Mount Washington, with the entire trail down to Pinkham Notch still to be hiked, causing nightmares for months afterward. The clouds engulfed us; we couldn't see a foot in front of us on the trail, or even locate the trail in the mist; the lightning raised the hairs on our arms. Gack! The memory still makes me shudder. We were lucky.



Marie Taranto
kayaking.
Photo courtesy
of Pat Gaburo.

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CANOEING/KAYAKING:

In the 1960s and '70s, George Sedmont lent his canoes to the club for weekend canoeing trips. George scouted and led trips on the serpentine rivers of the Pine Barrens. He also led some trips on the Passaic River. One month we put in somewhere near the headwaters of the Passaic and took out in Summit. That trip had lovely water. A month later we put in where we had taken out the month prior. The water was very low for this second trip, and we had to drag the canoes part of the way. Eventually we took out at Route 10 at a Howard Johnson's. (That's now the Pan e Vino restaurant in Whippany.)

Another canoeing memory: One Saturday night we were sitting around a campfire enjoying a pleasant conversation, when a huge skunk strolled casually toward the fire. No one dared to breathe. The skunk slowly, slowly meandered through the circle of still watchers and very, very slowly wandered out and away into the darkness. We breathed again.

And who can forget the Toms River in flood, when the high water drove snakes out of the rivers and into the trees, and as you went around curves in the river, there were all those little eyes staring at you? Or the time the canoes floated through a sea of onions in Warwick? Apparently it was a banner year for onions, and the farmers just floated the surplus down the river. In September we floated among cranberries in South Jersey.

Evolving technology affects all our outdoor activities nowadays, especially boating. An article in the AMC magazine *Appalachia* described a month-long canoe trip in 1889 down the Penobscot River in Maine: "The canoes were made of canvas, which in these waters has superseded birch

almost entirely." In the 1960s and '70s we used heavy aluminum Grumman canoes. Groups of canoeists would meet the canoe carrier (a trailer that accommodated up to seven boats) at the river put-in spot. Later in the 1970s, many of our friends were building their own fiberglass boats. Now, lightweight material and sleek designs enable individuals to cartop their boats themselves. According to Marie Taranto, "I just put it on top of the car, and off we went."

Dave Patchin reminisced about his canoeing days: "I used to canoe as a kid. When we joined the hiking club, Bill Kent talked us into trying the canoeing. Bill had canoed all his life. Our first club trip was with Cherryll Short, who lent us a canoe. We paddled with the group and liked it so much we went out and got our own boat. Our canoe was about 14-15 feet and weighed 54 pounds.

"We canoed for 18 years. My wife Joann and I were coordinators for the club. We scheduled 14 trips a year, one every two weeks in season. We did three-day trips on the Delaware: Narrowsburg down to the Gap, about 50 miles, camping overnight. We also took one-day trips down the Delaware, south of the Gap. We did some canoeing in the Pine Barrens also. In the warm weather, when the water levels in the rivers can get dicey, we'd move to the still-water paddling. We went to the reservoirs: Long Valley, Miller Creek, Spruce Run, north of Clinton."

I asked Dave about tipping into the water. "Dumping! Of course! Nobody canoes without dumping. People go in, they get caught in the rapids, get flipped. Everybody would pull together, bail out the boat, put everybody back in. Of course, it's not so bad to get wet in the summer.

"We had a great group of people: Cherryll Short, Pat Gaburo, Marie Taranto, Marty Frahme, Carol Czajkowski, Jimmy Hagedorn, Ellie King, Joe McLaughlin, and many more. Those were wonderful years."

BIKING: Clotilde Lanig coordinated the biking trips in 1999-2000. Her most vivid memory about biking: "Most people who came out, even if they lived in New Jersey all their lives, would say, 'New Jersey is really a garden state!' Once you get away from the Turnpike, there are some lovely areas in New Jersey. The small back roads in Hunterdon County come to mind. Nice hills, rivers, white fences, horse farms, green fields, not many cars at that time. One favorite bike ride was Pluckemin to Peapack. We'd stop at the Waldwick country store, which catered to bikers and to the horse people.

"As for dogs, we didn't have too much trouble, but we took precautions. Bob Keller showed me how to keep the bike between the dogs and me, even if I had to get off the bike and walk with the bike as protection. Or we'd blow a whistle and the dog couldn't stand the noise. Some people had pepper spray. We'd stay in a group because a dog might not attack a large bunch of people.

"We'd schedule a weekly ride from April to November. The numbers of participants depended on the location. One destination was the Branchburg flea market. Another Pennsylvania favorite was the covered bridges of Bucks County in fall foliage season. I'd carefully schedule it for what I thought would be peak season in October. One year, just about every bike club was there, plus the vintage car people, leaf peeping. The worst time was the year the motorcycles had an outing. I thought Mary Doyle would attack somebody! Motorcycles kept on coming, about 24 to 25 or more. We just got off the road and let them pass."

Marie Taranto recalls a bike trip with Ann and Carol Christian, Black River/Pluckemin. Another weekend took place on Long Island. "We went to Montauk, and it rained the entire time. We stayed in motels on the weekend trips. We didn't camp."

HOLIDAY PARTY: In December the club members gathered at Skytop in Watchung Reservation for a holiday party. After a short hike, Santa Claus appeared with his bag of gifts. People brought food to share, and we sang Christmas songs around a roaring bonfire. Those were the days when we were allowed to have real campfires in public parks. One year it was so warm the forsythia bushes were in bloom while Santa passed gifts around. Great photo op! Georg Berndt worked at one time for a factory that produced window dummies. He brought a pile of wooden arms and legs for firewood. Dick Wolff was heard to sing, "Throw another leg on the fire."

GROWTH: At first, club hikes were held on Saturdays, then they expanded to include Sundays as well. A significant UCHC expansion occurred in 2004, when the Frost Valley Trail Walkers dissolved (that darned insurance issue again!) and their leaders, members, and hiking schedules were blended with UCHC's. Another group, the Kittatinny Trailwalkers, also joined, adding Alternate Thursdays to the club schedule. Now we have a schedule that covers six days a week, with Fridays off to allow everyone to get out and scout new hikes. Right? Of course! Volunteer leaders are very dedicated.

FROST VALLEY TRAIL WALKERS: Sandy Furman was the FVTW president when the organization was discontinued in 2004. She kindly sent me some documents from the meetings that were held then. Disappointment and sadness are reflected in the messages to the members.

The organization was sponsored by Frost Valley YMCA from January 1984 to March 2004. New management of the Frost Valley Y instituted new guidelines, which proved to be unworkable for the officers and members. They sought new insurance coverage so they could continue under a new name, but that search was unsuccessful.

Instead, the organization was invited to join Union County Hiking Club. The "marriage" of the two organizations has continued amicably, and Union County gained some

wonderful members, leaders, and officers through the match.

HONORED MEMBERS: At the top of your UCHC roster is a list of "Honored Members." The first honored memberships were awarded in 1954. The surviving original members (see above) were named as Honored Members. Fred and Anne Dlouhy were also honored. Fred was a past president and a mover and shaker in club business for many years, and Anne was active on committees through the years. Bob and Marge Gasser (Bob was club president in the 1960s) were on the list as well. Later on, Bill and Berthe Myles were honored in their lifetimes: he for being a past president and long-term treasurer, leader, and general backbone of the club, and she for being "earth mother" to so many insecure new hikers.

At a lunch break recently, a hiker asked, "How old do I have to be to become an honored member?" The resulting responses clued us in to the notion that members don't always know why we are "honored." "Service to the club" was the consensus. So your Roving Reporter decided to track down these special people and find out just what they were up to when the honor hit them. Here we go (in alphabetical order):

Mae Deas: Member since 1979. "I learned about the hiking club through a newspaper article around 1976. I was going through a divorce and looking for activities that would keep me active. I started in with the biking trips. Ann and Carol Christian led both day rides and weekend trips.

"My first biking trip was a Long Island weekend. We drove with our bikes on our cars, got to the meeting place, did our ride, stayed overnight at motels, rode on Sunday, came home. A dozen or so members would join the trip at any time; we'd ride together as a group, and the members gave lots of encouragement to newcomers. We had trips to Pennsylvania: Bucks County, Amish country — these were terrific destinations for our biking group. Once a year we have an Island Beach ride, which is lots of fun."

Mae moved to Tinton Falls a few years ago, and she immediately started to lead trips in her new neighborhood. People go to that area, she says, because it's new to them, or they see it online and decide to try something different. I asked Mae why she thought she'd was voted an Honored Member, and she was her usual modest self. However, she was present at the Board meeting when she was voted in, and she admitted that she was surprised at the number of things people listed that she'd done through the years that added up to a significant contribution to the club.

Mary Doyle: Member since 1982. I caught Mary when she was in Florida, avoiding the winter weather. Her email was informative and helpful: "I first got involved with UCHC because of the biking activities, and I became biking coordinator after Audrey Robertson. I guess I did that job for about ten years.

"I took over the Program Chair position from Dot Berreman circa 1999. Back then we used to put every event on a single sheet of paper — lots of actual cutting and pasting with scissors and glue. Jay Winslow would then type the whole schedule and assemble it into the booklet. Being a computer programmer, I went nuts with this procedure. So eventually I was able to get the entire schedule onto an electronic file and email it to Jay so he could format it for the booklet. Bob Keller and I also worked on streamlining the mailing process with the County; Dick Wolff had discontinued his mailing service by then. I turned over the Program Chair's post to Gail Biggs about three years ago.

"MaryDell Morrison had the Treasurer's job for a few years, and she had transferred the paper files to computer format. I took over the job of Treasurer around 2003-4, and I turned it over to Eck Khoon Goh about three years ago."

In summary, the words spoken by Lee Fanger are absolutely true: Mary Doyle was honored because she pretty much ran the club for about half a dozen years at one point, fulfilling the duties of several key positions simultaneously.

Thank you, Mary Doyle.

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Lee Fanger. Photo courtesy of Carol O'Keefe.

Lee Fanger: Member since 1964. "I had hiked in New England and Colorado before I moved to New Jersey. I joined the Union County Hiking Club to continue my favorite activity. My first hike was a Trudy Zappe hike, about 20 miles, ending in Millburn. Trudy was famous for long hauls. Blanche Greig and I went on this hike, and we just collapsed afterward. I spent the next day in bed. Then I went with Dick Wolff on a July 4th White Mountain weekend. We did some very strenuous hikes in those days."

Some years ago, *The Oak Leaf* printed an article, "The Nameless Volunteer." Lee Fanger was the model for TNV. I'll quote excerpts from it here:

"She's not, nor has she been, a club officer. But she has assisted most of the officers at one time or another during the past 30 years or more. She has specifically asked that her name not be published, for she does not want the "glory"; she does these things because the club has given her so much, and she wants to return the gift.

"Our Nameless Volunteer has brought food to meetings and helped the Social Committee in preparation, setup, and cleanup. 'Let me help you with that,' says TNV, and the job goes more quickly. She has taken notes for a recording secretary who was ill. She has proofread, edited, and gathered data for the club roster and program. She has led hikes for many years, sometimes being the "Whoever Volunteers." She has helped other leaders: acting as sweep; walking

back to the trailhead with an incompetent hiker; scouting hikes; offering water to a distressed new hiker; distracting tired hikers with conversation (and always asking a complex question at the start of a big uphill); assisting trail maintainers as they work on the trails; being generally supportive of other members. She never asks for help for herself but is always ready to be asked. She tells officers and other hikers how valuable their contributions are. She's a linchpin in the Union County Hiking Club."

Lee once wrote, "Without UCHC, I'd be a couch potato. I've met most of my friends though hiking."



MaryDell Morrison.

MaryDell Morrison: Member since 1983. MaryDell took on the huge job of converting Bill Myles's Treasurer notebooks, written by hand in tiny dates and amounts, into an electronic file. Bill had been treasurer for 23 years and didn't like at all the idea that his conscientious paper notes would now be "out there" in the electronic ether. But MaryDell did it, and she held the Treasurer's post between 1998 and 2003, when Mary Doyle carried it on. A former math teacher, MaryDell was precise in her record-keeping.

MaryDell took over the editorship of *The Oak Leaf* and served in that capacity from 2003 to 2007. She enjoys writing, and the newsletter content reflected her eclectic interests. In addition, MaryDell led many memorable hikes.

However, when I think of MaryDell, my mind wanders to the banner year

of 1999, when she biked cross-country, 2911 miles (out of a possible 3200) from San Diego, California, in March and ending in St. Augustine, Florida, in May. One day she bicycled 105 miles. What an experience! And MaryDell was the oldest rider on the trip, 72 years old, she said. She found the group friendly and helpful, adding to her joy in the trip. Though it was not a UCHC activity, I thought it so much a part of MaryDell's identity as a biker that I included it here anyway. She said, "Doing something this demanding over a period of two months with such a group gave me a good feeling about myself and what I am able to accomplish."

MaryDell's many contributions to the hiking club make us realize how valuable a member she is and why she is an Honored Member.

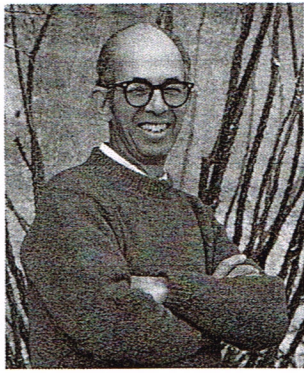
Jay Winslow: Member since 1982. Jay interviewed himself for this issue. I asked him a few questions, and here's his response:

"As I remember Dick Wolff saying at one time, many people join a hiking club when they find themselves in an unsettled state and they're looking for activities to root them. That was certainly my situation. I felt totally out of synch with the car-mad consumer culture, and I loved to walk, so a hiking club seemed like a good bet. I found out about UCHC, called Bill and Berthe Myles to see about joining their next hike, and thus my association with this club began.

"Being in the graphic arts field, within a year or so of joining UCHC, I volunteered to produce the schedule and later *The Oak Leaf* newsletter, and I've been doing them ever since. Although I haven't hiked with the group in many years, UCHC has been a large influence in my life. For one thing, a group outing introduced me to the Shawangunks area, where my partner Margaret and I bought a house in 2009. We now have two beehives, two geese (Boris and Natasha), and ten chickens. We plan to add two dairy goats this spring, and we garden almost a quarter acre, supplying much of our own food.

"It has been a long, interesting journey to this point, and it wouldn't have happened without hiking with UCHC."

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Dick Wolff

Dick Wolff: Member since 1963 (oldest living member in terms of length of membership). Shortly after Dick joined the club, he volunteered to mail the club schedule and newsletter through his mailing service. He has led day hikes, weekends, ski trips, international trips, and such creative events as "The Post-Prandial Pizza Perambulation" at Eagle Rock Reservation, the inner tube float down the Wading River, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Branch Brook Park (followed by a visit to the Newark Museum and dinner at a Spanish restaurant in the "Down Neck" section of Newark), and canoe trips with Saturday dinner at a local winery.

Dick was Program Chairman for 11 years — before computers. Twice a year, he'd set up a chart on paper; pencil in the activities that members had sent him — hikes, rambles, canoe trips, ski trips, square dances, weekends, special events — and then make phone call after phone call to ensure that every single Saturday and Sunday in the six-month period was filled in by a club activity. That was before the "Whoever Volunteers" days. Personally, I thought "Whoever Volunteers" a brilliant idea, saving the Program Chair all those hours of juggling and finagling and begging and wrestling with leaders to fill in the blank dates. When electronics came along, Mary Doyle took care of that transition (see above).

Like Jay Winslow, Dick joined the club at a crucial time in his life. He credits the hiking club and its special members with helping him turn his life around.

THE OAK LEAF: In June 1979, UCHC members received a mimeographed sheet of paper with our club's oak leaf logo illustrated at the top. The newsletter began: "Can you

think of a better name for this newsletter?" Fred Dlouhy, a club past president, wrote the copy. His wife Anne typed it on their little portable manual typewriter, and the finished copy went to the Park Commission, where it was mimeographed. Dick Wolff's mailing service sent copies to dues-paying members. All this was done as volunteer effort.

The newsletter is issued twice a year. Fred Dlouhy and Maryann Pavelka produced the issues to coincide with the semi-annual member meetings and photo nights (members showed slides of club activities or travels). New members were listed, and births, marriages, and deaths were noted.

Our newsletter got a facelift with Vol. 8 No. 1, May 1985. Jay Winslow produced a professional newsletter in a format that we appreciate to this day. Fred and Maryann continued to write copy for several years. The September 1988 issue onward included photos, enhancing the printed word. At one time or another we appreciated the editorial work of Nat Levin, Danny Bernstein, Clotilde Lanig, Nancy Wolff, MaryDell Morrison, Jane Rappoport, and our current editor Fran Fountain.

NEW MEMBERS: For years, Union County Hiking Club has been known to be friendly to new members. Here's Karen Quigley on her first hike: "I remember the hike was on Tuesday, January 30, 2007. It was a beautiful, sunny day and my first hike with UCHC. We met at the Newark watershed property on Echo Lake Road in West Milford. I pulled into the parking lot and saw a lot of strangers' faces staring at me. When I asked if this was the Union County hike, I was greeted with many welcoming smiles.

"I got out of my car and asked what I should do next. 'Go see Jim McKay and sign in.' Before I could seek him out, Jim and his lovely wife Theresa came over and welcomed me and had me sign The Form.

"Soon we were off, and Theresa made me feel so welcome by walking with me. We chatted about hiking, places where UCHC hikes, and proper apparel, and got acquainted with each other. From that initial

meeting, I knew I'd always be a club member! Theresa made me feel so comfortable hiking with this new group of people. She's a gracious, kind, caring person who always greets me on hikes. Now, whenever I prepare for an upcoming hike, I wonder if I'll see Theresa and Jim."

Many years ago, a 13-year-old named Martin Frahme joined the club "to get out of the house on Sundays." There was a lot of work on weekends, fixing up a new house with his father, so Marty thought hiking looked like more fun. Bill Myles later called Marty the club's "Senior Junior Member."

Marty continues: "During the 1940s my father was an active member of the UC Camera Club. We were on the mailing list for *Our Parks*, a newsletter put out by the Park Commission. It listed the schedule for the hiking club, one hike each Sunday. Most of the hikes were 6 to 8 miles, mostly in North Jersey/Greenwood Lake area, often on the A.T. Occasionally we'd hike in Watchung Reservation in Union County. I jumped right in and hiked with the club as a junior member, until I got my driver's license. After that I didn't walk for 20 years! I became active again in 1977, with George Sedmont's canoe group. Those weekend canoe trips were very memorable. I went over to the biking group around 1979. A special event was the annual Paul Stryker/Ann Christianson Penn Dutch biking weekend."

Martin Frahme became club president in 1981. The welcome given to a young teen was returned with interest and conscientious service.

YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW: So here we are, 75 years old. A little creaky here and there, very enthusiastic in our activities, keeping up with the people, the trails, the outdoor world. We've come a long way. We've built wonderful memories and made great friends. And we're looking forward to the next 75 years of memories.

Special thanks to Gail Biggs, Lee Fanger, Sandy Furman, Pat Gaburo, Carol O'Keefe, Gail Waimon, Jay Winslow, Dick Wolff, the Honored Members, and all the contributors and interviewees mentioned in this issue.