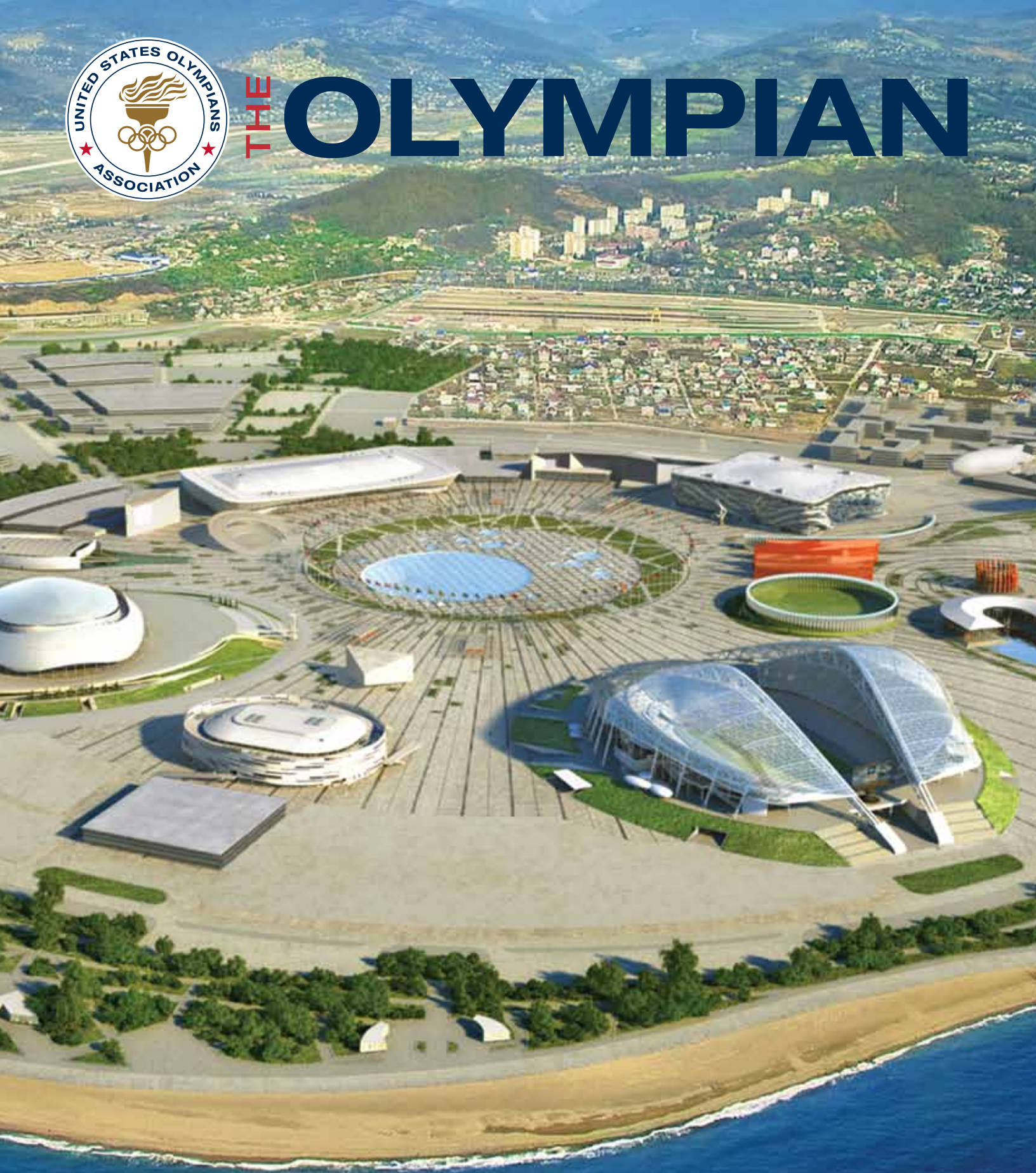




THE OLYMPIAN



SIGHTS SET ON SOCHI

Spring Issue 2013



MOTTO: ONCE AN OLYMPIAN; ALWAYS AN OLYMPIAN
NEVER FORMER; NEVER PAST®

A Letter From Gary Hall, Sr.

U.S. Olympians Association President



According to the Olympic Charter, updated in July 2011, “The mission of the National Olympic Committee is to develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.”

Further, there are six stated roles of the National Olympic Committee in the Olympic Charter. The first one is “to promote the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in their countries, in particular, in the fields of sport and education, by promoting Olympic educational programs in all levels of schools, sports and physical education institutions and universities, as well as by encouraging the creation of institutions dedicated to Olympic education, such as National

Olympic Academies, Olympic Museums and other programs, including cultural, related to the Olympic Movement.”

Olympism is defined by the Olympic Charter as “a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, societal responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.”

The other five roles of the USOC are: the development of high performance sport, observance of the Olympic Charter, training sports administrators, taking action against discrimination and violence in sport, and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code.

The USOC is one of the few NOCs in the world that fulfills its roles and mission without the financial aid of its federal or local governments. Both the economic and organizational efforts required to develop high performance sport and field great teams of Olympians and Paralympians every two years are immense. The challenge that the USOC must meet to fulfill that one role alone is extraordinary.

What should the role of the Olympians and Paralympians be? First, for those of us in a position to help, we should financially support the USOC. Twice each year, we will be asked to give; once for the USOC general fund and once to support the Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund, which aids our peers who have fallen on hard times. The USOC will generously match the amount we can raise this year for the OORF, up to \$50,000. For this reason, it is particularly important for us to also be generous with our support.

Second, we need to help the USOC fulfill its first role of promoting Olympism by donating our time and energy, our knowledge, and our enthusiasm for the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.



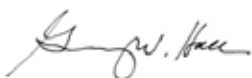
Become an active member in your chapter of the USOA and participate in its local events and meetings. If you don't have a chapter near you, we plan to create one soon. Attend an Olympic Day event near you around June 23 to celebrate the birth of modern Olympic Games. This year, the USOC will have over 350 Olympic Day events around the country.

Register as an Olympian or Paralympian for World Fit (WorldFit.org), the non-profit organization founded by the USOA to help reverse the child obesity trend in America. Now in its fifth year, the World Fit Walk will register around 100 schools and encourage more than 40,000 students to live a healthier life, participate in sport and follow the Olympic values. When the walk begins next month, World Fit is expecting those students to log in about 3 million miles during the six weeks of the program. If a school registers for World Fit near you, you may get asked to speak to its students to promote good health and Olympism. I hope you will. This year, our motivational theme for the students and schools is Walk to Sochi.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the late Al Oerter, one of the greatest of all U.S. Olympians, who founded the Art of the Olympians (ArtOfTheOlympians.org), a non-profit institution in Ft. Myers, Fla. I also want to thank Al's wife, Cathy, who carries on his mission and operates the Art of the Olympians Museum. The Art of the Olympians is a treasure and we should all make a point to visit the museum, particularly during one of its many fine shows. It is also a great example of one of our own members helping to fulfill an important role of the USOC, using his own perseverance and will. Al Oerter was a true Olympian in every sense of the word.

Be proud of being an Olympian or Paralympian, and go inspire others to embrace Olympism.

Sincerely,



Gary Hall Sr.

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Cover image: In this artist's illustration handout image provided by SC Olympstroy, the Coast Zone for the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics is shown on May 20, 2011 in Sochi, Russia. Sochi is preparing for the 2014 Winter Olympics with massive construction and regeneration projects. (Photo by Handout/Getty Images)



TEAM USA HAS SIGHTS SET ON SOCHI

By Amy Rosewater

Steven Holcomb might be a little uncomfortable standing in a hotel lobby surrounded by people speaking Russian, which is exactly where he found himself recently.

Less than a year from now, there is no other city he will want to be in more than Sochi, Russia. With the Opening Ceremony for the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games set to begin on Feb. 7, 2013 — Holcomb and his “Night Train”

**The pressure to produce
in Sochi is not lost on the
American athletes.**

bobsled crew are readying for their final push toward defending their Olympic gold medal. He and his teammates were in Sochi for a test event on the Olympic track. The race was the last event of the 2012-13 season and marks a reminder of how soon the world will be convening in this same spot on the globe a year from now.

“It’s exciting,” Holcomb said from the Olympic city. “People are kind of getting ramped up for this. The volunteers were excited. This was only a test event but everybody’s taking their job real seriously and you know, they’re excited to see us here. ... There’s was positive energy.”

Holcomb headed straight to Sochi from Switzerland where the bobsled world championships were just held. There, his four-man team earned the bronze, which was a remarkable finish considering the team was in sixth headed into the last run and used a track record to make it to the podium. Holcomb also was part of the mixed event team competition that claimed the gold medal.

Although Holcomb joked that he had no idea what anyone was saying in the hotel lobby, he has been impressed by what the people in Sochi have been doing, most notably how much construction has been going on in this resort town by Black Sea. Right behind Holcomb’s hotel, he said, was nonstop construction on a train station.

“I can promise you they have been working around the clock,” Holcomb said. “It’s pretty incredible to watch nonstop building.”

Also in Sochi was Alan Ashley, the U.S. Olympic Committee’s chief of sport performance. He will be the chef de mission for Team USA at the 2014 Winter Games and was in the Russian city for his fifth visit, and he has been pleased with the construction on the venues and other infrastructure.

The Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games, which run from Feb. 6-23, will feature 15 disciplines of seven sports, as recognized by the International Olympic Committee, for a total of 98 medal events, including 12 new events — biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event, freestyle skiing halfpipe and slopestyle competitions, luge team relay, women’s ski jumping, and snowboard slopestyle and parallel slalom events.

Following the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Winter Games will be held in Sochi, beginning March 7 and ending March 16. Five sports will be contested

in those Games: alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge hockey and wheelchair curling.

Sochi was on the minds of virtually every Team USA winter athlete, even if they weren’t already there. Team USA captured the most medals of any country at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games with 37 -- seven more than runner-up Germany. The United States was tied for third (with Norway) in the gold-medal count with nine.

The pressure to produce in Sochi is not lost on the American athletes.

Julia Mancuso, the most decorated U.S. Olympic female alpine skier, was in Austria competing at the world championships and already has her sights on Sochi. A three-time Olympian earned a gold medal in the giant slalom in Torino in 2006 and added two silvers (downhill and combined) in Vancouver.



Above photo: A view of the construction of the Sliding Centre Sanki venue for Bobsleigh and Skeleton at the 2014 Winter Olympics on November 7, 2012 in Sochi, Russia.

(Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

Photo to the left: A view down into Krasnaya Polyana where the train station and buildings are being constructed on February 13, 2013 in Sochi, Russia. Sochi is preparing for the 2014 Winter Olympics with test events across all the venues.

(Photo by Richard Heathcote/Getty Images)

She opened the world championships with a bronze medal in the super-G and she achieved that even though her longtime teammate Lindsey Vonn had been taken by helicopter after a crash just minutes earlier. Vonn suffered a knee injury which will force her to miss the rest of the season.

Mancuso said Vonn has “plenty of time to get ready for the Olympics” and added, “For sure, we’ll see her next year.”

In addition to Mancuso’s world medal, Team USA added a gold as Ted Ligety won the world crown in the super-G.

Americans are looking strong in other winter sports. Cross-country skier Kikkan Randall is coming off a victory at the Olympic venue in Sochi and is first in the sprint standings and third overall.

Several of America’s top skaters, including newly crowned national champion Max Aaron and U.S. silver medalist Gracie Gold, are competing in Japan in the Four Continents Championships and will make their debut at the world championships next month. In New York City Evan Lysacek told NBC’s Today show that he is dedicating this year to Sochi. Lysacek, however, has suffered injury setbacks and has not competed since claiming the gold medal in Vancouver.



Views of the river running through Rosa Khutor mountain venue for the 2014 Winter Olympics on November 7, 2012 in Sochi, Russia.

(Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

Meanwhile, Olympic ice dancing champion Meryl Davis and Charlie White claimed their fifth consecutive U.S. title and are poised for a battle for gold at the world championships. Davis and White won the ISU Grand Prix Final, which features the top six teams in the world, at a test event in Sochi in December.

Also on the ice in Sochi recently were short track speedskaters as the

Samsung ISU World Cup Short Track event was held there.

And the U.S. women’s ice hockey team has a strong mix of veterans and newcomers to its lineup which it hopes will help turn the Olympic tide against rival Canada in Sochi. Among the players trying to make the team for a fourth time is forward Julie Chu.

A three-time Olympic medalist, Chu is hoping to strike gold in Sochi.

“I think I’m floored right now to think that we are one year out already,” said Chu, who has earned two silvers and a bronze in Olympic competition.

For the first time, the U.S. Olympic women’s team will be led by a female coach. Katey Stone, who coached Chu, among other top women’s players at Harvard, has been named the women’s coach.

Not to be overshadowed is snowboarder Shaun White, a two-time Olympic champion. In fact, White could get both air time and face time before the Opening Ceremony begins as slopestyle snowboarding is scheduled to be broadcast a day early.



A view of the Adler Arena venue for Speed Skating at the 2014 Winter Olympics on November 6, 2012 in Sochi, Russia.

(Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

ARCHIVES & ARCHIVIST

USOC Archives and Teri Hedgpeth, Archivist & Historic Steward



Teri Hedgpeth, Archivist and Historic Steward for the USOC

Do you have Olympic or Paralympic memorabilia of historical significance that you would like to donate to the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC). If so, there is now an official USOC archives and process for you to do so!

Last year the USOC recognized that their historic collections needed care and a search began for an archivist to be responsible for the USOC collection of records and historic artifacts. Teri Hedgpeth was hired as the USOC Archivist and Historic Steward last July. A certified archivist with two degrees in history and a wealth of experience including time at the National Archives, Teri joined the team in July to take over care and responsibility of the USOC historic records and artifacts.

“I love historic records; I love the Olympics and sports and I cannot believe I am able to combine the two on a daily basis here in Colorado Springs. I am very, very happy to be here, said Hedgpeth” Her passion for the collection is evident in the care she takes with each and every item. “It may not have a high dollar value

assigned to it; but each item is valuable in its own way and needs to be preserved properly,” Teri asserts.

The USOC Archives have undergone quite a change since Teri has arrived. The former library has been boxed up and is now stored off-site, for preservation safety, the records have been removed from the floor and organization of those records is in progress. In addition to the existing collection, Teri also has quite a backlog of items to be processed as well as new donations arriving to be included into the USOC Archives.

As the historic steward of the collection, Teri handles all loan requests from within the USOC as well as those from the public for Olympic items from the collection. “I am very protective of the collection; however, having this fantastic collection is only part of the equation, we also need to share it ... just in the proper manner. I process each and every item before it heads out the door. It is placed on loan and agreements regarding care and return are completed before I pack it

up for display. My goal is not to make it difficult to loan items; but to ensure that proper care of our items is taken.”

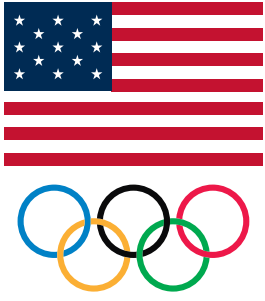
In addition to archiving items and records into the USOC and acting as the historic steward Archives, Teri is also the point of contact for researching those records. “Each request I receive increases my knowledge of the items in our collection, of the Olympics, and of the USOC. It’s a win-win situation, they get the answer they need and I reap benefits as well.”

Asked what her next steps are for the USOC Archives Teri explains, “Complete the inventory of our collection is of paramount importance. Second, reaching out to the NGBs, and Olympians to increase their awareness of the archives, our collection and ultimately, to increase donations to that collection.”

If you would like to make a donation to the USOC archives, please contact Teri at 719-866-3200 or Teresa.Hedgpeth@usoc.org.



Teri processing a donation from USA Basketball, a 2012 Olympic Team jersey signed by the gold medal winners



OLYMPIC DAY 2013

CALLING ALL OLYMPIANS!

2013 Olympic Day in the United States needs you!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

Since 2009, the U.S. Olympians Association has supported Olympic Day in the United States through partnering with the U.S. Olympic Committee and community-based organizations (i.e. YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs) across America to have an Olympian, Paralympian, coach or hopeful to attend Olympic Day celebrations in their local communities to talk about their Olympic experiences and Olympic Values.

Last year, 552 Olympians, Paralympians, coaches and hopefuls participated in Olympic Day celebrations in their local

communities. Among the participating athletes were 103 Olympic and Paralympic athletes from the 2012 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams. More than 200,000 Americans participated Olympic Day. In total, 632 Olympic Day celebrations took place across all 50 states and eight locations abroad, making 2012 Olympic Day the most successful ever in the United States.

We have seen the positive impact Olympians can have on our local communities and the Olympians of tomorrow. We encourage U.S.

Olympians, Paralympians and coaches to participate in 2013 Olympic Day by participating in local Olympic Day celebrations, organizing your own Olympic Day celebration and by inviting your fellow USOA Members to participate.

The U.S. Olympic Committee has designed an athlete toolkit, which includes speaking points, a DVD and a t-shirt that will make participation in Olympic Day easy and turnkey.



Reno, Nev. Children show off their strength at the Olympic Day Family Festival, organized by the Reno Tahoe Win



Johnson City, Tenn. | East Tennessee State University celebrated Olympic Day with a ceremony designating it as an official U.S. Olympic Training Site for the sport of weightlifting.



Sacramento, Calif. Starr Walton Hurley (Skiing-Alpine, 1964) led the Northern California Olympians Association in an Olympic Day celebration at a Sacramento River Cats baseball game.



Collierville, Tenn. Rochelle Stevens (Athletics, 1992 & 1996) and Margaret Matthews Wilburn (Athletics, 1956) stand with mayor of Collierville, Stan Joyner, and the U.S. Navy color guards at the 22nd Annual Rochelle Stevens Invitational Track Meet. More than 700 people participated in the opening ceremony honoring Olympic Day.

USOA member participation is as easy as 1, 2, 3

1 USOA Member confirms participation in an Olympic Day celebration by registering at www.teamusa.org/ODAthleteRegistration or by contacting Abigail Tompkins at olympicday@usoc.org or 719.866.4535.

2 USOA Member and host connect with one another to discuss specific logistics of event.

3 USOA Member works with host to determine event specifics and share their personal Olympic experiences while inspiring participants during the Olympic Day celebration.

Additional information on Olympic Day can be found at: www.teamusa.org/olympicday.

Reminders to register for Olympic Day celebrations will be sent electronically to the USOA database periodically.



Augusta, Maine Julia Clukey (Luge, 2010) partnered with her local YMCA to lead a 10-day summer camp focused on developing self-confidence and leading a healthy lifestyle.

(Lucinda Williams-Adams) Coconut Creek, Fla. | Lucinda Williams-Adams (Athletics, 1956 & 1960) spoke to the Coconut Creek summer camp children about sportsmanship and what it means to follow your dreams in sport and in life.



Louisville, Colo. Anne Battelle-Ayad (Freestyle Skiing, 1992, '94, '98 & 2002) showed the children of the Louisville recreation center her Olympic uniforms after sharing the story of her Olympic experience.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

Roger Capan

(speedskating, 1968)

Roger Capan passed away on March 2, 2013. He was 67.

Mr. Capan was a 1968 Olympian speedskater. He received his Master's



Roger Capan

Degree at the University of Illinois. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and member of the First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores and active in the Fisherman's Sunday School Class.

Roger was bigger than life and was an encourager to his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife Rebecca of Gulf Shores, Ala, son Scott (Yvonne) Capan of N.C., daughter; Amiee (John) Pellettiere of N.Y.; Mother; Vera Capan of Champaign, Ill, grandchildren, Sean and Sydney Capan and Hannah and Santo Pellettiere; many nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Sandor "Alex" Ferenczy

(athletics, 1968, '72)

Sandor passed away on February 28, 2013. He was 87.

Sandor was born in Hungary and later fled Communist Hungary with his family during the revolution of 1956. He settled in Cleveland, Ohio where he made his living as an Engineering Designer. "Alex" earned accolades for his track and field coaching skills and was elected to the Cleveland and State of Ohio Sports Halls of Fame. He was especially proud of being chosen as the U.S. Olympic Head Coach for Women's Track & Field in 1968, in Mexico City, and again, in 1976, in Montreal.

He was a stern and loving father, dedicated to teaching his family strong morals and about their proud Hungarian



Sandor "Alex" Ferenczy

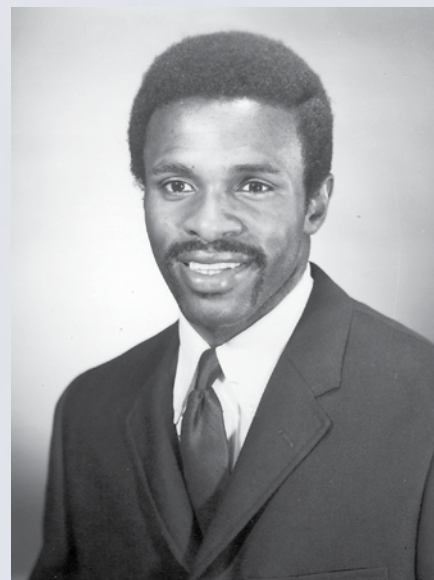
heritage. He enjoyed being the center of attention, displaying his charm, wit and clownish nature at all family and social events. He will be missed by all!

Calvin Bernard Fowler, Sr.

(basketball, 1968)

Calvin passed away on March 5, 2013. He was 73.

Calvin grew up in the Manchester neighborhood on the north side of Pittsburgh and was a member of the 1957 City League Basketball Championship team. In June 1957, he graduated from David B. Oliver High School. He received a full athletic scholarship and attended Saint Francis University in



Calvin Bernard Fowler, Sr.

Loretto, Pa. where he graduated in 1962. After college, he served his country for two years in the United States Army.

In the early 1960's, Calvin was a member of the Akron Ohio Wingfoots basketball team. He was also an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) All-America in 1967 and again in 1968 for Akron Goodyear Wingfoots. In 1967, Calvin served his country as captain of the United

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

States gold medal basketball team at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. He was also co-captain of the U.S. gold medal basketball team at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. He would later play in the American Basketball Association for the Carolina Cougars in the 1969-1970 seasons. Calvin also enjoyed a career of athletic endorsements, sales and marketing for ADIDAS and various other athletic outlets. Calvin became a United States Postal Service employee and retired after many years of service.

While in Akron, Ohio, Calvin met Melva Angeline White, the love of his life. They were joined in holy matrimony in 1966 and shared 46 years of wonderful marriage. Calvin and Melva welcomed two sons to their union, Calvin B. Fowler, Jr. and Guy P. Fowler. Eventually, the close knit family settled in Willingboro, N.J. where they enjoyed family life together.

Calvin was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He loved having Melva at his side and his family always kept his bright smile aglow. He shared his passion for basketball by teaching his sons and grandchildren how to put the ball through the hoop, over and over again! After many years in New Jersey, Calvin and his love retired to Ocean City, Md. and he became a member of New Bethel United Methodist Church in Berlin, Md.

In addition to his parents, Calvin was preceded in death by: his loving wife, Melva; four brothers, Clifford, Ernest, Harold, and Edward Fowler; and three sisters, Mary Lee Whittle,

Gertrude Durrett and Delores Smith.

Left to cherish his memory are: two sons, Calvin B. Fowler, Jr. and Guy P. Fowler, both of Burlington, N.J.; four grandchildren, Simone A. Fowler, Calvin B. Fowler III, Yasir M. Fowler, and Clarke B. Fowler; three brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law; four aunts-in-law; two uncles-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Ruth Grulkowski-Hatyina

(gymnastics, 1952)

Ruth Grulkowski-Hatyina passed away on June 24, 2012. She was 81.

Ruth competed for Bud Beyer-Chicago Acro Theater, then Lincoln Turners. She earned a spot on the 1952 Olympic Team in Helsinki, Finland, where she participated in each apparatus.

Ruth is survived by her daughters, Cindy, Lisa and Linda; and grandchildren, Melissa, Bobby and Carrie.

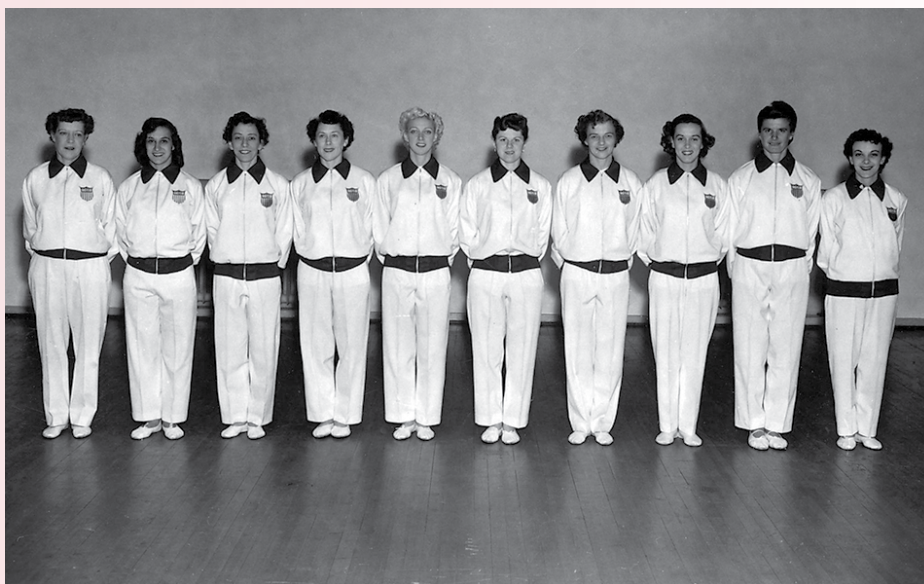
John McKinlay

(rowing, 1952, '56)

John McKinlay passed away on January 14, 2013. He was 81.

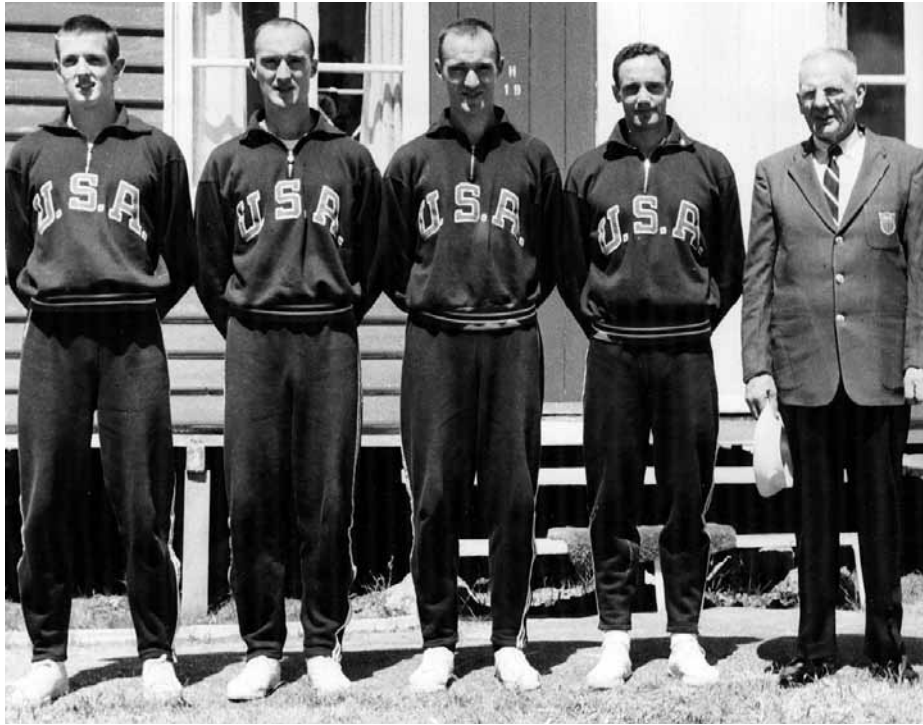
Born in Detroit, John he is a graduate of Cooley High and a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. He is also a graduate of Boston University, B.B.A. and the University of Michigan program in Real Estate Management. A long time realtor/appraiser and past president of the Birmingham Bloomfield Board of Realtors sat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

John is a two time Olympian in the sport of rowing. He was on the 1952 and



Ruth Grulkowski-Hatyina (second from the left).

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM



Melbourne 1956 Olympic, USA Men's Rowing - *From left to right:* James S. McIntosh, Arthur F. McKinlay, John D. McKinlay, John R. Welchli, Walter M. Hoover Sr., coach.

'56 U.S. Olympic teams. Rowing out of the Detroit Boat Club with his twin brother Art McKinlay; who preceded him in death, they won a silver medal at the 1956 Olympics. During his 13 year rowing career he competed in the U.S., Canada and Europe winning 5 U.S. Rowing Championships and 8 Canadian Henley Championships. He was captain of the crew at Boston University. He retired from rowing in 1963. He is an inductee of the Boston University Athletics Hall of Fame and the National Rowing Hall of Fame.

John is survived by his sons John, Stewart, Scott, (Amy) and James P.

(Stephanie); grandchildren, Andrew, Colin, Copper and Emma Lucille; and sister Mary Ann Holthaus of Alexandria, Va.. He is also survived



1948 Olympic Soccer Team: Bernard McLaughlin, *back row fourth from the right.*

19 by his longtime companion Patricia Muenstermann of White Lake Township.

Bernard "Benny" McLaughlin (soccer, 1948)

Benny McLaughlin passed away on December 27, 2012. He was 84.

Benny began playing for the American Soccer League powerhouse Philadelphia Nationals in 1945. During his ten season career with the team, the Nationals won the ASL championship four times. The Nationals also won the Lewis Cup three times during that period, twice winning the league championship at the same time, or the "mini-double." McLaughlin reached the final of the U.S. Open Cup twice while with the Nationals.

He earned 12 caps for the U.S. Men's National Team from 1948-1955 and played on its 1948 Olympic team and was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1977.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

Benny played for the U.S. during World Cup qualifying in 1949 and 1954, but he missed the 1950 FIFA World Cup because of work commitments. He also started in the USA-Scotland game on April 30, 1952, that drew a crowd of 107,765 in Glasgow.

Professionally, McLaughlin played in the American Soccer League from 1945-1961, primarily with the Philadelphia Nationals where he won ASL titles in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1953.

Frank Sanders

(ice hockey, 1972)

Frank Sanders passed away February 17, 2012. He was 62.

At 6-foot-3 and 230 pounds, Frank Sanders was a giant of a hockey player, a bruising defenseman who protected his teammates with his muscle and his might. But off the ice, the puck star turned preacher was well known as a softie.

“His teammates always teased him,” said his daughter, Jennifer Mains. “He was this big tough guy on the exterior, but he was always mush on the inside.” Sanders enjoyed success at nearly every level of hockey, playing in the state high school tournament, the national college championship game and the 1972 Winter Olympics before turning professional with the Minnesota Fighting Saints. But for all of his athletic accomplishments, it was his work in the pulpit that brought him his greatest joy.

Growing up in Oakdale, Sanders dreamed of becoming a minister and often preached to his sisters and their dolls after returning from church. He also spent long hours in winter honing his skating and puck handling skills in pickup games on nearby Tanners Lake. He didn't play organized hockey until eighth grade, but by high school, he and longtime friend Craig Sarner led their North St. Paul Polars to the 1967 state high school hockey tournament.

His athletic prowess led to a scholarship at the University of Minnesota, where, as a senior, he was the most valuable player and captain of the Gophers team that advanced to the national championship before losing to Boston University. His play impressed the National Hockey League's Boston Bruins, who offered him a professional contract. Instead, Frank joined the U.S. team that won a silver medal at the 1972 Olympic Games in Sapporo, Japan.

Months later, he signed professionally with the Fighting Saints of the upstart World Hockey Association. A hard-nosed defenseman, he was one of the team's enforcers.

After a year with the Saints, Sanders surprised his teammates and coaches by quitting the game to pursue the ministry.

After graduating from the Apostolic Bible Institute, Sanders worked as a youth minister while employed fulltime as a service manager for AmeriPride Services. In 2001, he was one of 15

people who started the Spirit of Life Bible Church in Woodbury. Today, it serves 225 members.

Despite his illness, Sanders worked with Ducklow to complete a book about his life titled “From Silver to Gold.” And he continued to work at the church until his final weeks, sometimes showing up in a wheelchair, his daughter said.



Frank Sanders

Frank was preceded in death by an infant son. In addition to his daughter, he is survived by his wife, Kathy, sons Timothy and Jeremy, 10 grandchildren and four siblings.

John “JT” Curtis Thomas

(athletics, 1960, '64)

John Thomas passed away on January 15, 2013. He was 71.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

John Thomas began his track career at Rindge Technical High School in Cambridge, Mass. As a 17-year old freshman, JT captured the athletic world when he set the world indoor high jumping record. He became the first man to ever jump 7-feet indoors. The Millrose Games is considered the most renowned indoor track meet in the World. He missed the rest of the 1959 season due to an elevator accident that nearly severed his jumping foot. Ten months later, at the Knights of Columbus track meet at the Boston Garden before 10,000 spectators he cleared 7'1", the highest jump ever, indoors or out. That season he further improved the indoor record at the 1960 Millrose Games and AAU Indoor Championships. JT broke the outdoor record three times with a career best of 7' 3 3/4" at the 1960 Olympic Trials.

JT is a two-time Olympic medalist earning the bronze in 1960 in Rome and four years later in Tokyo the silver.

Before he completed his illustrious athletic career in 1968, JT won five AAU championships and two outdoors. His performance at the 1959 Millrose Games was selected as "the most memorable moment" in the meet's history. JT won at Millrose six times

and the event was later named, "The John Thomas High Jump."

He graduated from Boston University in 1963. During his career he cleared the magical 7-foot barrier an amazing 191 times. He is a member of the Massachusetts High School, Ridge



John Curtis Thomas

Tech, Boston University, Helms Foundation, and the United States Track & Field Hall of Fame. The Boston Globe and Sports Illustrated named him among the greatest athletes of the century.

He served on many boards and most recently at the Brockton Public Library.

He retired from Roxbury Community College where he was the athletic director after having been involved for many years in sport administration, coaching, public relations, advertising among other things. JT loved attending the annual Hall of Fame inductions at Boston University and was actively involved in the Rindge Alumni Association. In 2009, JT was chosen as Rindge "Man of the Year." JT served as President of the New England Olympians chapter and was a nationally certified track and field official.

He considered his Olympic teammates and the thousands of friendships made through his years competing and those that followed as one of the most meaningful parts of his life.

He was also preceded in death by son Antonio H. Thomas. Survivors include daughters Nikol C. Thomas of Woonsocket R.I., Eva Thomas of Sweden, and Stephanie Finley of Medford; sons Danye A. Thomas of Brockton and John C. Thomas of Wareham; 12 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

GOODWILL TRIP TO KYRGYZSTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

By Heather Petri

Earlier this month, three other gold medalists- Erin Cafaro and Susan Francia (rowing- 2008 & 2012) and Rulon Gardner (wrestling- 2000), joined me on a goodwill trip to Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan to visit our armed forces.

We visited 9 bases getting to interact with soldiers in a variety of ways. We shared our Olympic experiences, signed autographs and took pictures with soldiers. Sometimes at formal meet & greets, other times while sharing a meal in the dining facility or grabbing a coffee at the Armed Forces cafe, "The Green Bean". Erin and Susan were able to extend rowing technique advice to soldiers during a clinic on the erg machines in the gym, while Rulon also

met with those interested in his wrestling expertise at many of the bases. Rulon also graciously offered to coach local Kyrgyz children in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy during our stop in Bishkek, having a turnout of almost 100! Sadly, there were no pools available for some water polo fun and all lakes were frozen at this time of year. ;)

They treated us to tours of their bases, K-9 unit demonstrations, a close up look at a refueling tanker, a tour of the Queen's Palace in Kabul, a weapons demonstration, flights in Blackhawk helicopters and a C-17s, and introductions to generals- both US and Afghan.

The trip enriched our perception of the Armed Forces, what we are doing over there and generally making us more (if that is possible) proud to be American. We know that every soldier is far from home and their loved ones, doing a job that puts them in danger. As athletes we are blessed to compete and represent The United States of America. It was a pleasure for us to be able to travel over there to say thank you, in person, for providing us the freedoms to do that. I firmly believe that all of us make up on big TEAM USA.



Photo taken at the Queen's Palace in Kabul. Pictured L to R: Susan Francia, Erin Cafaro, Rulon Gardner and Heather Petri



OLYMPIANS FOR OLYMPIANS RELIEF FUND HAS ADDED FOUR OLYMPIANS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund (OORF) is a 501-c3 organization created by the U.S. Olympians Association to assist fellow Olympians in times of difficulty. The Fund provides monetary assistance to Olympians who have experienced physical, financial or other hardship -- in attempting to recover from accidents, natural disasters, long-term illnesses, or injuries.

The OORF is proud to announce four new members: **Nastia Liukin** (Gymnastics, 2008), **Jeremy Bloom** (Skiing, 2006), **Russ Hodge** (Athletics, 1964), and **Willie Banks** (Athletics, 1980, '84, '88) to the OORF Board. Also, the OORF would like to thank the outgoing members, **Micki King** (Diving, 1968, '72), **John "Big Jake" Carenza** (Soccer 1972), **Reynaldo**

Brown (Athletics, 1968), and **Edward "Ed" Williams** (Biathlon, 1968), for their exemplary service. The four new members each will serve a term of 4 years assisting with aiding Olympians who encounter accidents, illness or injuries and are in need of help.



The OORF is non-profit organization that accepts tax-deductible contributions from Olympians and their supporters. The grants are made through an application that considers the severity and cause of the need. Over the years the OORF has helped many Olympians who have been ill, seriously injured, or devastated by natural disasters.

For further information please contact **Cindy Stinger** at the United States Olympic Committee. Or, visit our website at www.oorf.org.

OLYMPIAN & PARALYMPIAN

PHOTO Highlights of chapter and Olympic events.



1. & 2. Olympic hurdler Mark Crear teaches children about the importance of good fitness during a recent visit to KIPP Prep LA Middle School.

3. Olympic high jumper Dwight Stones offers his wisdom to South Gate High School students.

4. On February 15, 2013, Billy Mills, 1964 Gold Medalist in the 10,000 meter run at the Tokyo Olympics, was honored to receive the Presidential Citizen's Medal from President Obama at a White House ceremony for the important work the charity he co-founded, Running Strong, is doing for American Indian youth. "I was honored to be recognized by the President in this extraordinary way. Even more so, I was touched by all the well wishes I received and the gifts made to Running Strong in my honor." *Billy Mills*



READY, SET, GOLD! LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Olympians Help School Children Stay Fit

Ready, Set, Gold!, a program of the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, is proud to announce the launch of its new website, www.readysetgold.net.

RSG!, the only program of its kind in the country, tackles the epidemic problems of childhood obesity and chronic diseases by pairing Southern California Olympians and Paralympians with Los Angeles area public schools to help promote student fitness, nutrition and healthy living habits.

Each Olympian is matched to a specific school and meets with the PE classes five times during the school year to inspire, educate and motivate the students toward a long and healthy life through physical activity and good nutrition.

During the school visits, Olympians exercise with the students and share their stories of how they became Olympians and the importance good fitness and nutrition played in their success.

Ready, Set, Gold! is primarily funded by worldwide Olympic sponsor Samsung Electronics North America and currently operates in 50 different elementary, middle and high schools throughout the District, positively affecting approximately 25,000 students each year.

There are 41 Olympians participating in the program this year, including 18 medalists. RSG! is chaired by U.S. Olympic gold medalist Peter Vidmar (1984, gymnastics).

“All of our athletes are real life examples of how living a healthy and active lifestyle helped them be successful in sport and in life,” said RSG! Director Bernadine Bednarz. “That’s the message we emphasize.”

Contacts: Bernadine Bednarz, (213) 482-6346 or Mark Meyers, (714) 318-2332

OLYMPIANS

Patricia Etem
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Michael O’Hara
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Peter Vidmar
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Cathy Marino
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2013 VOLUNTEER TRIPS Led by Olympic Athletes to RWANDA & CAMBODIA



Our Mission:

Using **sport** as a catalyst to promote gender equity in communities impacted by genocide.

Trip Leaders:

Each trip is uniquely led by Olympic Athletes who are Athlete Ambassadors to our organization and role models to the youth in our program.

2013 Volunteer Trips: No prior volunteer experience required, all backgrounds and ages welcome!

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Led by 4x Olympian in Luge, Cameron Myler.

Rwanda & Yoga: July 18th – 29th, 2013. \$1799 (plus airfare)
Led by Olympic Silver Medalist in Water Polo & Yoga Instructor, Jaime Komer.

Cambodia: October 12th – 26th, 2013. \$1999 (plus airfare)
Led by Kids Play Int'l Founder & 3x Olympian in Freestyle Skiing, Tracy Evans.

CONTACT US: Info@kidsplayintl.org or call 435-645-8163

Detailed Itineraries and FAQ's about the trips can be found on our WEBSITE: www.kidsplayintl.org



www.kidsplayintl.org

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Interested in starting a chapter?

Contact the U.S. Olympians

Association office for details at

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