



## OUR FIRST MEMBER TURNS 100!



“Is there anything special you’d like to do for your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday?” I asked my 98-year-old mother-in-law, thinking I might need to start planning. She paused for a minute and then said, “I’ve always wanted to jump out of an airplane.” I was surprised, but not shocked.

**Betty Myers** is an adventurer; in her mid-50’s, she got her pilot’s license. But now she uses a walker, and I wasn’t sure jumping out of an airplane was a great idea!

Not wanting to put a damper on Betty’s dream, I talked to a sky-diving company, certain they would say, “No way!” However, they assured me it was possible for her to do a tandem dive.

I hesitatingly shared that with Betty—wanting it to be her choice. After much thought, she chose to skip it. And we dove into birthday planning.

A family dinner party with 5 generations, lots of balloons, a trivia game about her life, and special 100<sup>th</sup> birthday gifts each family member had chosen from

Betty’s house started her week of festivities. Family showed Betty the gift they’d picked, told her why it was meaningful to them, and then shared one thing they appreciated about her. “She is always there for me,” was heard several times.

The White House Café hosted Betty’s party on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday since it has been a special spot for Betty over the years. The evening included a song fest with tunes such as *I’m Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover*—and cake, of course. Betty starting Standard Paint with her husband, Dick, in 1954; her volunteer years at the Gilbert House; love of travel; her many collections (dolls, bears, antique fire engines and toys, etc.); and random adventures such as an archeological dinosaur-bone dig.

A few years before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Betty was also up for adventure as the first member of YSNN. Board Member Barb Heinzen encouraged her to join the organization, before Betty thought she needed it, because the newly formed YSNN wanted senior members to help coach the volunteers. That sounded like a win-win to Betty—to help others as she was being helped. Barb may have promised chocolate chip cookies, as well, and Betty signed on the dotted line.

Everything went smoothly in those first outings with YSNN volunteers. Betty took her job seriously and scheduled drivers for appointments and the grocery store. When family was unable to shovel her sidewalk, a faithful volunteer showed up. Betty enjoyed an occasional phone call, plenty of masks delivered to her door during the pandemic, and beautiful flowers when she couldn’t get out—all courtesy of YSNN. Even when she was in rehab, a volunteer helped with light yardwork

It was through one of YSNN’s Zoom presentations that Betty discovered how to support the preservation of Monarch butterflies and mailed a donation. She enjoyed potlucks and meeting the interesting people who served her.

From Betty’s family, thank you YSNN. You have been a great resource and support for all of us. May you someday celebrate 100 years of service and adventure!

**-Kathy Myers**