

# our voice

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

Summer 2004

## it's time to talk madison forum

The YWCA is proud to announce our 3rd Annual Racial Justice Forum. The event will take place on October 15th from 11:30-1:30 at the Concourse Hotel. Our keynote address will be given by María Hinojosa.

Born in Mexico City, Ms. Hinojosa is now a New York based Urban Affairs correspondent for CNN and host of NPR's Latino USA. Throughout her career, she has garnered many awards and written two books: *Crews*, which was based on her award-winning NPR report on NYC youth gang activity, and *Raising Raul*, a motherhood memoir about raising a Latino child in a multicultural society.

She will be giving a talk entitled, "The U.S. Mambo: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back - Race Relations in America Today." Following her talk, there will be facilitated discussion about race at each table. This event will serve to kick off the "It's Time to Talk" programming in the Madison community.

"It's Time to Talk" forums provide an informal opportunity for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue about racism. This program intends to bring people together who may be friends or acquaintances, see each other at work, in community groups, or civic organizations, and may have never discussed race issues. After participating in this annual large community luncheon, individuals are offered opportunities to participate in smaller, open community brown-bag lunches or to host small dinners in their home.

The YWCA is still recruiting volunteers to facilitate this event. Facilitators should be comfortable with conversations about race and with guiding small group discussions in both public and private forums.



**María Hinojosa**

Facilitators will be asked to participate in facilitator trainings and would commit to doing two facilitations over the course of the year, one of which would be the large community luncheon on October 15th. Once you are trained as a facilitator, you will receive ongoing support from the YWCA Racial Justice Program Manager.

For more information about the event, or if you are interested in becoming a facilitator for "It's Time to Talk", you can contact Colleen at 257-1436 or [cbutler@ywcamadison.org](mailto:cbutler@ywcamadison.org). You can also access information on our website: [www.ywcamadison.org](http://www.ywcamadison.org). We hope that you will be able to join us!

## ywca's book club

The YWCA is pleased to announce our new Recommended Reading Program. In every edition of our newsletter, you will find a book pick that is related to race and diversity issues. You will also be able to access the list on our website, and on the website of the Madison Public Library. Our first book pick is *Crews* by María Hinojosa in honor of her speaking engagement during the YWCA Week Without Violence. We recommend that you suggest this book for your current book club, or if you do not already belong to a group, and would like to join a discussion, the Main branch of the Madison Public Library will hold a discussion about this book on Wednesday September 15th at noon.

Books will be available for 20% off in soft cover, and 30% off in hardcover at Borders East and West, if you let the clerk know that you are a member of the YWCA book club program. In addition, the Madison Public Library has many books available, and will be distributing the discussion questions and YWCA bookmarks at the main branch.

For questions regarding this program, contact Colleen at 257-1436 or [cbutler@ywcamadison.org](mailto:cbutler@ywcamadison.org).

Please find below the discussion questions for our first book pick.

1. When the author interviews Shank, he states: "Right now, it's, like, we're the minorities and we have to prove to people, to whoever is on top now, that we could achieve and stuff. Even if it's like, on the violent side, it's still the same concept to me. Like if I went over you, at least I went over you at something. It might be a stupid thing, but at least I win over you at something." Why doesn't Shank feel that there are any other alternative means of achievement? What are some other choices

that Shank could make? What can our community do to encourage people to choose alternatives to violence?

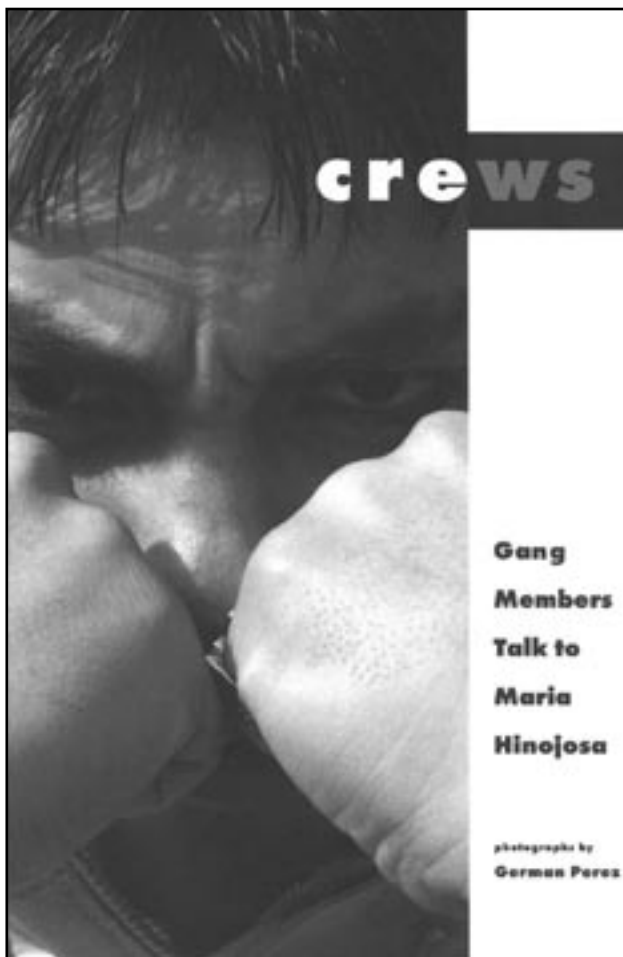
2. Coki states: "When kids are born, you know, they're not born racist, you're not born dumb, you're not born bad. All these things are put into your head when you're a kid... you grow up wanting power... [you know] one side is going to win." How do you think that children develop racist attitudes? How do you think the media influences the attitudes of young people towards race and violence?

3. In the chapter when the author interviews the female crew, Sonya and Smooth B talk about how much they want things they can't have, stating: "we want everything." In talking about her boyfriend who deals drugs, Sonya states: "I never got anything from anybody!... Getting something from a guy is like everything." How do these young women perceive their own value? How does being in a female crew differ from being in a male crew?

4. When talking about how he would like to see the world around him, Tre states "Put all the white people in the ghettos and let the blacks live in the suburbs." Why does Tre see this as the solution?

5. In her NPR interview, María Hinojosa talks about the profile of youth violence as it relates to poverty, and she also brings up the violence of unemployment, poor education, and racism. How are these issues forms of violence? What are some steps that our community can take to work towards eliminating these forms of violence and the effects that they have on our children?

6. How do the perspectives of the Crew members change as they are given a venue to talk about their choices? What can we learn from this?



## week without violence 2004 calendar

The **Week Without Violence** will take place from October 15th through the 22nd. This year, the YWCA is proud to announce its partnership with two other Madison non-profits: the Wisconsin Book Festival and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services. We are working together to help identify practical and sustainable alternatives to violence in our community through literacy, advocacy, and community awareness. For more information about events throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), contact Libby at DAIS at 251-1237 X11, or see our calendar on our website: [www.ywcamadison.org](http://www.ywcamadison.org). For more information regarding the Wisconsin Book Festival, visit their webpage at [www.wisconsinbookfestival.org](http://www.wisconsinbookfestival.org).

The kick-off for this year's Week Without Violence will be our **third annual Racial Justice Forum on October 15th** from 11:30-1:30 at the Concourse Hotel. See the front page for more information regarding this event.

Madison School and Community Recreation will host "**Swimming Against the Tides of Violence**" at **West High School from 1:00-4:00 on Saturday October 16th**. This will be a free open swim with children's activities and information for parents. The purpose of this day is to replace violence with sports, recreation and fun, and to provide kids with the opportunity to channel negative energy into positive achievement.

**On October 19th, the YWCA will host the awards ceremony for the 9th annual Poster and Essay contest** open to all 5th grade students. Each year the YWCA encourages fifth graders throughout Madison to think about the ways in which they can help stop violence in their homes, schools, communities, and lives. Students are given the opportunity to either create a poster or to write an essay that focuses on stopping violence in our community. Winners are selected by a panel of judges comprised of community leaders. All students receive a prize, and awards for winners are generously provided by Star Cinema and Rocky Rococo Pizza. The awards ceremony will be held at the Edgewood College Auditorium at 6:00 PM. Posters and Essays will be on display at the event.



**The Day of Unity will be held on October 20th**. This event is a collaboration between Domestic Abuse Intervention Services and the YWCA. It will begin at 5:30 in the Library Mall at the University. Information regarding violence against women will be available at the event, and there will be a candlelight vigil at sunset.

In this important election year, the YWCA is also hosting a new event called **Empowering Women and Celebrating the Right to Vote on October 21st** from 4:30-7:00 at the YWCA. This event is free and open to the public. For more information on this event, see the article on page 6.

Community Partnerships is hosting the "**Caring for Our Daughters**" conference on **October 22nd from 8am-5pm** at the Alliant Energy Center. The YWCA is a strong supporter of this event, which is dedicated to adolescent girls and their parents. It is free and open to any teen girl in Dane County from the ages of 13-17. They have designed several workshops with parents of adolescent girls in mind and are also encouraging parents to attend.

Workshops will focus on how your body works, sexually transmitted diseases, body image and music videos, healthy relationships, and building self esteem. The focus for the parents will be stress relief and communication skills. Some of the workshop facilitators include: Dr. Joann Pritchett, Attorney Yolanda Woodard, Sheryl Kato, Carola Gaines, Kiah Calmese Walker, Tara White, Laura O'Neal, Shannon Berry, and Kay Dewaide. The lunch panel includes three gentlemen that will engage the young teens in their ideas of healthy relationships. Distinguished keynotes include: County Executive Kathleen Falk, Fire Chief Debra Amesqua, and world renowned Child Psychiatrist Dr. Gloria Johnson-Powell. Tiara Purifoy, an American Idol contestant earlier this year, will sing at the conference.

## YWCA now accepting nominations for the 15th racial justice awards

Eileen Mershart, Executive Director, has announced that the YWCA is now accepting nominations for the 15th Annual Racial Justice Awards. All entrees must be submitted in writing on or before August 15th, 2004.

Mershart said, "Throughout this award's history, we have honored outstanding individuals and organizations who give their time and energy toward the elimination of racism. We encourage anyone who knows of someone who is truly making a difference in their community regarding race relations to submit their name for nomination. We look forward to receiving these nominations and to selecting this year's award recipient(s)."

The YWCA Madison has given its Racial Justice Award since 1990. Its purpose is to recognize and honor individuals, corporations, and organizations that work toward the elimination of racism and creation of racial equity. The nominee should be a resident of the Greater Madison area who has made a significant contribution to race relations in the community. The Award Committee seeks nominations for individual(s) or group(s) that demonstrate a commitment to racial justice beyond employment requirements; have initiated a special effort or program in the area of racial justice or participated in a significant way in more than one initiative or program in the community to further racial justice; and remain a role model for those whose lives they have touched.

Nominees need not be publicly recognized persons in the community. Some examples of those who could be nominated include: community organizations that effectively address issues of racism; a young person who took a stand for inclusiveness and racial harmony on behalf of someone else; businesses that effectively implement policies that result in employment equity; individuals who take active measures to address issues of racism, or area actors, writers and other artisans whose work(s) promote racial justice and interracial understanding.

The YWCA Racial Justice Award Committee and the YWCA Board of Directors will make the final selection(s) of this year's award recipient(s). Nomination forms are available by calling the YWCA of Madison at 257-1436 or by downloading a form

from the YWCA website at [www.ywcamadison.org](http://www.ywcamadison.org). All recommendations for the award must be submitted on or before August 15th, 2004 and addressed to the Racial Justice Award Committee, Attention: Racial Justice Coordinator, 101 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703. The 2004 honorees will be recognized at an award ceremony on Friday, October 15th during the 3rd Annual YWCA Community Race Relations event at the Concourse Hotel.



Founded in 1909, the YWCA of Madison is a pioneer in the fight for social justice. The YWCA is committed to helping individuals, organizations and companies improve race relations and finding ways to eliminate racism through constructive dialogue and meaningful action. The YWCA of Madison provides safe, affordable housing for low-income women, emergency shelter for homeless women and families, Racial Justice programming and education and training to ensure economic security for women.

## Fifth Annual Path of Voices

People often ask, "How can public art really contribute to a peaceful world?" The answer is two-fold. First, the Path of Voices project dedicates sacred space in which community members can reflect, remember, and learn about others' experiences with violence. Second, the inter-disciplinary curriculum developed by artist Bradley McCallum, high school teachers, and student interns promotes dialogue, visioning, and action against violence in the community. According to Ribbon of Promise National Campaign to End School Violence, 33 school shootings have been prevented across the country since 1998 as a result of education and prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies.

You can find Path of Voices at Madison's East, West, Memorial, and LaFollette High Schools. Plans are underway to complete the fifth and final installation at Malcolm Shabazz High School in 2004-05\*. For More information contact Elliott at 232-1763 or visit <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/bldgsrv/path.htm>.

\*An event is currently scheduled following the YWCA's Week Without Violence on Saturday, October, 23, 2004.

**it's time to talk madison  
friday, october 15, 2004**

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
registration begins at 11:00 am**

**concourse hotel  
1 west dayton  
madison, wi 53703**

**cost - \$35 per person;  
\$350 to sponsor a table of**

**For more information or  
to reserve your seat,  
contact Colleen  
at 257.1436 or  
[cbutler@ywcamadison.org](mailto:cbutler@ywcamadison.org)**



### Join US! YWCA of Madison Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Your Membership Support Level:**

\$50       \$100       \$250       \$500       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed - Please make check payable to YWCA of Madison.

Mastercard/VISA Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to: YWCA of Madison, 101 East Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703. Thank you!*

[www.ywcamadison.org](http://www.ywcamadison.org)



## empowering women and celebrating the right to vote

One of the arguments made before American women had the right to vote in national elections was that women didn't want to vote, or that it would take them too much time and they wouldn't vote even if they could. These arguments, made 100 years ago, sound quaint to our ears. Yet in the most recent Presidential election, only 56 percent of eligible American women voted. Male voters managed to vote at an even lesser rate than women, however; only 53 percent of American men voted. Such low voting rates suggest that Americans of both sexes take voting for granted. Yet generations of women and men fought for full voting rights for all Americans.

Join us Thursday October 21, 2004, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at the downtown YWCA as we celebrate the hard-won right to vote. We'll have refreshments, kids will learn a few funny suffrage songs, and learn about the long struggle to win the right to vote for American women. There will be an opportunity to register to vote (bring a current and valid photo ID and a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check or government document). Madison producer Jocelyn Riley will premiere her new video program "Winning the Vote," which highlights the 1912 Wisconsin campaign to win votes for women. Women's Suffrage was soundly defeated by the all-male voters of Wisconsin in 1912 and it wasn't until 1920 that Wisconsin women could vote in national elections.

Production and some showings of Riley's "Winning the Vote" video were supported in part by a grant from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission (with additional funds from the Madison Community Foundation and the Overture Foundation).

## one woman's story

One day in early 2003, Tanya packed up a few belongings and picked her three young daughters up at school to catch a bus to Madison. Tanya was five months pregnant at the time and had decided to leave her abusive partner and the father of her children after he had threatened her with a gun. Tanya's mother had suggested she go to Madison because she has some family here, though Tanya had not seen these family members since childhood.

Tanya met a kind woman on the bus to Madison who offered to allow Tanya and the children to spend the night in her home. The following day, the woman brought Tanya to the shelter. Tanya was placed at the YWCA shelter, where she remained for about three months.

While in shelter, YWCA staff assisted Tanya to create a safety plan for herself and her children in case her former partner located her. He did locate her and came to the YWCA once, but the security provided at the YWCA prevented a confrontation. While at the YWCA, Tanya also received information about legal and counseling resources available to her and her children. Additionally, Tanya began working with her case manager to secure income and locate safe, affordable housing. Part of this search included completion of the YWCA's Second Chance workshop.



Tanya began searching for work but then encountered some complications with her pregnancy. Because of her medical needs, she enrolled in the W2 program and remained on W2 until after her baby was born. During this time, the YWCA staff assisted her to secure affordable housing in a safe neighborhood. Because Tanya's W2 check barely covered the cost of her rent, the YWCA offered her a rent subsidy to cover a portion of each month's rent. To receive the rent subsidy, Tanya also agreed to continue working with her Case Manager for a year after moving into her apartment.

While living in her new apartment, Tanya gave birth to a healthy baby. After the baby was born, Tanya resumed her employment search. She secured employment in a professional position making enough money to support her family and to save for the future.

A year and a half later, Tanya has maintained her employment and her family's housing. She has reached a strong level of self-sufficiency. She has started searching for a larger apartment and has been saving money for a future move. Tanya is also applying for the YWCA's CNA training program so that she may further her education and career goals.

Though Tanya is officially no longer receiving case management from the YWCA staff, she occasionally calls her Case Manager with updates on her progress. Her three older children are enrolled and doing well in school. Tanya's mother has also moved to Madison and helps with childcare for the baby and for the older children after school. Tanya is still working at her job and planning for the future. Tanya has commented many times that the support her family received from the YWCA has helped her get through the tough times and allowed her to become more independent.



YWCA Staff works stocking shelves in the new pantry.

### **Pantry Donations Needed!**

Over the past year, YWCA staff have been transitioning an old shower room into a pantry. Our maintenance staff removed toilets and shower stalls and made repairs to the space. We received some help from the West High School soccer team in painting the shelves. Our pantry is now complete and has passed inspection. Now we need help in filling the shelves. Larger sized diapers, feminine hygiene products, meals in a can and bus tickets are our clients' greatest needs. If you have donations, please drop them off at 101 E. Mifflin St. The YWCA pantry serves people living in our building and those involved with our programs. The pantry supplies clients with much needed food and personal hygiene products. To see our complete wish list, visit our website at <http://www.ywcamadison.org/How/HowPage2.html>. Please help us make a difference in the lives of the people the YWCA serves.



### **YWCA 100 Years Old in 2009**

In preparation for 100th Anniversary of the YWCA in Madison in 2009, we are asking that you look through your records for archival materials. These items may include photos from past YWCA events, newsletters, and personal stories. Please contact Debra at 257-1436 or [dschwabe@ywcamadison.org](mailto:dschwabe@ywcamadison.org) if you can supply materials to help us celebrate 100 years of service to the Dane County Community.

### **SKILLS Program Growing**

The S.K.I.L.L.S. Program is in the planning stage and we anticipate serving our first students in the fall. The Transitional Learning Program at Northport/Packers Apartment Community, The CRIS Program at West High School, and the SAPAR and Work and Learn programs have all committed to working with us to provide housing and financial education to at-risk youth. We are currently in the process of recruiting volunteer credit union staff to facilitate the financial education piece of this program. Watch for further updates as this program grows!

### **United Way Campaign**



August 15 - October 31 marks the Annual United Way Campaign. Look for representatives from the United Way and United Way supported agencies at your workplace to promote the campaign.

Please give generously to the United Way. Your support helps many agencies.

## volunteer spotlight



Girl Neighborhood Power was recognized for leadership and service at the United Way Community Volunteer recognition luncheon.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We will be receiving new school clothing for children in our shelter through Clothes for Kids Giving Tree booths at East and West Towne Malls July 16-July 31. Volunteers are needed to sit at a booth and make sure that all of the tags are secured properly on the clothing. To sign up for a shift, please go to [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) or contact Marcy at 257-1436 for more information.



Michael Simpson, former shelter resident and YWCA volunteer for the past 2 1/2 years, was chosen as the store-wide winner for Kohl's South Towne for the Kohl's Kids Who Care for his volunteer work at the YWCA and in the community. He has been given a \$50 gift certificate from Kohl's Department Store. He was also nominated for a United Way Community Volunteer Award.



Colleen Marion, YWCA Children's Program volunteer since 2002, has been named in the top 4% of her graduating class of 2004 by the Wisconsin State Journal. Colleen plans to study biology and child development. Among her accomplishments, she lists National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Lacrosse Club, Student Council and YWCA Volunteer.

These two youth volunteers, along with the many others who give their time throughout the year, are shining examples for the future. They serve as positive role models to the YWCA children, whose lives they touch on a daily basis.

**you have the  
power to make  
a difference.  
get involved.**

## Girl Neighborhood Power Continues to Grow

The YWCA has been awarded a three year grant to provide Girls Inc. programming to middle school girls at our five Girl Neighborhood Power (GNP) community centers starting this fall. This is a great opportunity for the YWCA to strengthen its presence in the Madison community providing critical services to girls. It is also a wonderful opportunity for GNP to incorporate Girls Inc. curriculum into its ongoing programs. The Alliance for Wisconsin Youth has awarded its annual Community Partnership Grant to the YWCA for Girl Neighborhood Power. This funding will provide a solid funding base for GNP programs through 2007.

“We are extremely excited and pleased to have GNP chosen by the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth for their annual award. Their financial support will continue the YWCA’s transition towards more programming for teen women in the Madison community” stated Eileen Mershart, YWCA Executive Director. “This is just what we needed to move forward with our vision for Girl Neighborhood Power.”

More details about this exciting new initiative will be available soon. If you would like more information about the Girls Incorporated organization, visit [www.girlsinc.org](http://www.girlsinc.org). More details about Girl Neighborhood Power are also available at [www.girlneighborhoodpower.org](http://www.girlneighborhoodpower.org), or you can call the GNP Project Director, Meme Kintner, at 241-1574 ext 18.



## Training Partnership for the Skilled Trades

The newest program at the YWCA Training Annex, the Training Partnership for the Skilled Trades, began its inaugural session July 6th. The six-week program targets women and minorities for entrance into apprenticeships in the skilled trades. The services provided include:

- ◇ Information on the work involved in each trade, along with the application procedure to get in.
- ◇ Skill level assessment.
- ◇ Classes and tutoring in math, language skills, science, mechanical comprehension, spatial relations, job skills and personal finance.
- ◇ Contact with people in the industry.

The instruction is delivered in a classroom setting on Tuesday evenings with tutoring sessions midday or evenings on Wednesdays and Thursdays. One of our future goals is to provide support for graduates of The Training Partnership for the Skilled Trades who have passed their entrance exams and are waiting to get into an apprenticeship.

For more information on the program, contact Mary at (608)287-1602, Leslie at (608)255-3098 or e-mail [mwatrud@ywcamadison.org](mailto:mwatrud@ywcamadison.org).

## March for Women's Lives in DC

Nancy Wrenn Bauch, the Third Street Coordinator at the YWCA of Madison, joined Representative Tammy Baldwin and over one million people in Washington D.C. for the March for Women's Lives in April. The YWCA, along with many organizations, was a sponsor of the march. Tammy Baldwin led the Wisconsin delegation and spoke to all gathered on the issues of choice, justice and access to healthcare.



## Hunt Receives Honor

Jacquelyn Hunt shares a moment with Dorothy Height a national leader in the struggle for racial justice at the YWCA USA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Jacquelyn Hunt, a former Third Street participant won the YWCA "Her Story" contest and was a guest of honor at the annual event. Jacquelyn told her story and the benefits she gained from participating in the Third Street program.

## Table Captain Interest Form



**YOU complete the Circle of Women!**

Yes! I'm interested in being a table captain for the 2005 Circle of Women on February 17, 2005.

See our advertisement on the back page!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out this form and return it to:

YWCA Madison  
101 E. Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703

[www.ywcamadison.org](http://www.ywcamadison.org)

YOU complete



# the Circle of Women™!

The YWCA Madison is pleased to host the Second Annual Circle of Women Event, designed to provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the YWCA and network with others from diverse social, ethnic, economic, educational and cultural backgrounds. Funds raised by guests at the event will support the YWCA Madison's employment and training, counseling, housing and racial justice programs, which enrich the lives of Madison and Dane County women and families.

**Thursday, February 17, 2005 - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Monona Terrace**

Mark your calendars now and join us in 2005. If you are interested in being a table captain, please contact Debra at 608.257.1436, by email at dschwabe@ywcamadison.org or return the form on page 11.

2005 Co-Chairs  
Mary Lynch  
Christina Sheehan



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