

## **Mark C. Johnson, Ph.D.**

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### **PROFILE**

A human services sector senior leader with 25+ years in service to national and international agencies. Demonstrated expertise in board, fund and leadership development (staff and volunteer), strategic planning, communications and public advocacy. Teacher and trainer. Recognized as a change agent, connective link, leader and mentor to internal and external constituencies globally.

### **CAREER HISTORY**

#### **The Fellowship of Reconciliation USA**

**Current (2007 - )**

**Executive Director.** Provide executive leadership to Board and Staff of a 96 year-old interfaith, multicultural peace fellowship dedicated to nonviolent civil response to racial, social and economic inequity and injustice. FOR has a membership of 30,000 individuals and coalition of 24 Religious Peace Fellowships and Affiliates, with chapters and affiliates in more than 100 communities across the United States. A policy board of 24 members from around the United States make up the National Council. FOR USA is one of 55 Branches of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. A staff of 21 provide program and support services from offices in New York, California, Texas, and Bogota, Colombia, and lead civilian diplomacy delegations to Iran, Colombia, Israel/Palestine and Afghanistan and engage in advocacy in support of conscientious objector status in the United States. FOR is working actively in the area of controlling gun violence and pursuing economic, social and racial justice in the United States.

The executive director also serves as staff liaison to a number of partnerships and collaborations including Christian Peace Witness (CPW), the Community of Living Traditions (CLT), the United National Anti-war Coalition (UNAC), InterFaith PeaceBuilders (IFPB), among others.

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

#### **YMCA / YMCA of the USA**

**1981 – 2006**

##### **Director of Heritage and Special Projects, YMCA University, YMCA of the USA (2006)**

Aligned with the YMCA University Branch of the YMCA of the USA to advance the work of a Leadership Development Center at the Jerusalem International YMCA. Senior member of planning team for the YMCA of the USAs quadrennial national general assembly.

- Completed a three-year cycle developing a series of eight-month programs involving 84 young adults, in groups of 12, from Israel/Palestine with four communities in the United States (Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Nashville Tennessee) in the acquisition and application of conflict transformation skills in the Middle East.
- Spent ten weeks during 2003-2005 in Israel/Palestine developing a network of 27 NGOs and selected research and teaching institutions in support of the leadership development center at the Jerusalem International YMCA.
- Conceived and managed a 25,000 sq. ft. \$100,000 exhibition for an audience of 5000 at the National General Assembly on the history and work of the YMCA in the world.

**Director of National Executive Initiatives, YMCA of the USA (2004-2006)**

Expanded the philanthropic brief to engage the YMCA of the USA in partnerships which would work to guide moral and intellectual conversations shaping social and public policy concerning youth and family in America.

- Represented the YMCA as principal liaison in such conversations with more than 20 foundations and institutes, governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, academic institutions, and NGOs in the United States and abroad, including: USAID, The National Academies, Institute for American Values, University of Southern California, Fetzer Institute, Center for Creative Leadership, and the Learning Innovation Laboratory at Harvard University.
- Served as lead member in a team creating the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), a multinational coalition of US, Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. Serve as founding advisory board member of Girls Learn International. Serve as board member of Schools That Can, a national coalition of exemplary public, private and independent charter schools.

**Director of National Philanthropic Initiatives, YMCA of the USA (2002-2004)**

Hired to reestablish a national philanthropic campaign on behalf of the Jerusalem International YMCA and selected initiatives of the YMCA of the USA. An area of work left dormant for more than ten years.

- Created a department of four professionals and developed a strategic plan in 2002 that continues to drive the fund development work for the Jerusalem International YMCA four years later.
- Wrote grants securing \$1.6 million of USAID support (the maximum possible under USAID guidelines) for the Jerusalem International YMCA based on authorizing language in the Senate appropriations bill. Response contributed to the establishment of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation at USAID which today funds work in as many as 18 countries.
- Secured \$300,000 grant from the Department of Labor to support development of youth service apprenticeships in the human services sector.
- Initiated and advanced conversations leading to \$5 million commitment from the Kresge Foundation to the YMCA of the USA and YMCA of Mexico to support a growing culture of philanthropy in Mexico.
- Co-chaired a national staff council of YMCA professionals from all departments of the YMCA of the USA to expand the concept of philanthropic citizenship as it related to the entire culture and work of the YMCA of the USA.

**Executive Director of the Silver Bay Association YMCA for Christian Conferences and Training, Silver Bay, NY. (1989-2001)**

During 13 years of executive leadership to the nations oldest, and second largest YMCA national conference and training center, the Association grew from a single-season to a four-season conference and training site.

- The operating budget grew from \$1.8 million to \$4.5 million.
- Endowment expanded from \$850,000 to over \$3 million.
- Supervised staff ranging from 75 (year-round) to 300 (summer).
- Served 15,000 conferees and members annually on 750 acre campus with more than 70 buildings.
- In the final three years, leading up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association, raised over \$11.5 million in capital campaign from 1200 families against a goal of \$7.5 million.

**Executive Director, University YMCA at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois (1984-1989)**

**Associate Executive Director for Program, Silver Bay Association YMCA for Christian Conferences and Training (1981-1984)**

## **PRIOR CAREER HISTORY**

**Assistant Director, University Christian Center, an international student campus ministry, Beirut, Lebanon (1971-1974)**

**Instructor, Cadmus College, Tyre, Lebanon and then at Haigazian College, Beirut, Lebanon, in fulfillment of status as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War (1969-1974)**

## **EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Ph.D.** Columbia University, New York. New York. Field: Sociology of Law and Knowledge. Title: "Privacy: Context, Concept and Legal Cases."

**M. Phil.** Columbia University, New York, New York

**B.A.** The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio. (English and History)

Junior Year Abroad and three years of graduate study. The American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

Senior Director. YMCA of the USA Career Development Program. Trainer of Trainers. Essentials of Management. American Management Association. Volunteerism, Investing in Excellence (The Pacific Institute), Learning Circles (Dialogue)

## **SELECTED OFFICES AND AFFILIATIONS**

**Rotary One**, Chicago, Chair of International Service Projects of the International Service Committee. (2004 – 2006)

**International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)**, Member of Board of Directors (2006-present)

**Lake George Land Conservancy** (President 1991 – 2001, Board member 1990-2001, Advisory Board 2001 – present)

**Lake George Park Commission** (Elected Chairman of the Board, appointed by Gov. George Pataki, 1999-2002)

**Schools That Can** (Director, national alliance of public, private and independent charter schools – incorporated in 2006 -- present)

**Alliance for Middle East Peace** (alliance of NGOs engaged in conflict transformation work – incorporated in 2006, Chair of Membership Committee 2004-2006)

**Fellowship of Reconciliation** (Treasurer of Chicago Chapter – 2002 to 2007)

**Association for Managers of Innovation**, Center for Creative Leadership (2003 – present)

**Learning Innovation Laboratory (LILA)** – Harvard University (corporate delegate 2004 – 2006)

**Association of YMCA Professionals** (1984 – 2006)

**Girls Learn International** (founding advisory board member, 2003 – 2007)

**NAYDO** (National Association of YMCA Development Officers, 1989 – 2006)

**Adirondack Nature Conservancy/Adirondack Land Trust** (1994 – 2001)

**Fund for Lake George** (Trustee, 1991 – 1997)

**Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church** (Co-Chair capital campaign committee, 2006)

**Associated Solo Artists/Creative Leaps International** (Chair of Board Development Committee, 2002 – present).

**Interfaith Peacebuilders** (Board member, 2009 – present).

**List of Publications** Available upon request. Writing regularly for the FOR Blog and Fellowship magazine. [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)

**Recent Recognitions**

Leadership Medal, Bonner Foundation, August 2007.  
Career Leadership Award, Leadership Forum at the Silver Bay, July 2010  
Unsung Heroes Award, Spring Valley NAACP Chapter, October 2011.

**Personnel Information:** Married for 40 years to Mary Bell Johnson, with three adult children. Reside in Stony Point, New York, and North Creek/Chestertown, New York.

**Contact:**

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