

STEWARDSHIP PROFILE • PERFIL DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD

The Stewardship Profile appears in English one week, followed by the same profile in Spanish the following week.

El perfil de corresponsabilidad aparece en inglés una semana, seguido por el mismo perfil en español la semana siguiente.

Jim and June Mackorell

Jim and June Mackorell are well known names at St. Thomas More. A plaque in front of the lower school thanks June for her "29 years of dedicated, loving service to the kindergarten classes of St. Thomas More – 1971-2000." Peggy Schneider was June's assistant that last year. "I knew her as a friend and it was great to get to know her in a new way as a teacher." Peggy recalled that June played the piano and taught the children patriotic songs. "Oh, William Clark. When the Clarks visited the Vietnam Memorial, six-year-old William heard music playing and put his hand over his heart, the way June had taught him, and sang all the words. The adults were amazed."

Peggy said, "Jim is so revered by those he mentored." Last month Jim (Mr. Mack) was honored for his 43 years as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 39. Jane and Jerry Kyle's son, Matthew, came from Minnesota for the 100th Anniversary of the troop known as the "Wonder Troop" for its record number of Eagle Scouts. Under Jim's leadership,

the troop started recycling cans and bottles in 1970. Their success led Mayor Howard Lee to ask them to take over Chapel Hill's recycling efforts. The volume was so high, the scouts had to build their own glass crusher. They earned enough money to buy a bus and a truck.

The bus took the boys everywhere. Jim told a reporter, "We would just load up the bus and go. We went rafting, backpacking, caving, canoeing, rock climbing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, sailing and waterskiing. We would go in any weather. We went camping even when it was so cold the eggs would freeze." The truck came in handy for St. Thomas More. Bob Weickert said, "When I was administrator, I hired Jim to haul mulch for Parish Pride Days. He used the payments to further fund troop activities."

In addition to being honored at the 100th anniversary, Jim was a WCHL Hometown Hero last month (as was his friend Drew Melvin). Drew and Jim have also been recipients of the Irene Briggaman Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism Award given by the Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce

and named for Irene, a long-time parishioner and volunteer.

This is a tribute to the Mackorell's stewardship to young people, but it really is a love story. Norbert Schneider tells the story. "Jim went to church with a friend and sat in the balcony. He saw June singing in the choir and asked his friend, 'Who is that? I'm going to marry her.' There's more. When Jim was stationed in Germany, June said, 'I'm coming.' He said kept saying no – there's no place to stay on the base. At the airport, he saw her get off the plane wearing a big overcoat. In it she had an iron and other plug-in things she thought she'd need. The voltage was different and they had to throw it all away. Jim thought she must have been so uncomfortable on the plane."

