# Yellow Bird

**By Chaplain Donald Moss**

When I was in the fourth grade, I had a teacher who liked birds. She liked birds so much that she looked a little bird-like. When she laughed, she chirped like a bird. But she didn't laugh much.

My teacher divided our fourth-grade class into three groups. The smart kids were the Red Birds. They were girls. In the fourth grade, girls liked school and they liked being Red Birds. The kids with a "clue" were Blue Birds. There was hope for Blue Birds. Blue Birds might even become Red Birds, if they work at it.

The hopeless ones, that is, the ones without a clue, were the Yellow Birds. I was a Yellow Bird. My hopelessness was probably attributable to my lack of interest. My favorite subject was recess, that is, playground. School was "for the birds."

When the teacher talked to the Red Birds, she sounded so happy that she almost twittered. She loved Red Birds and Red Birds loved her. She liked the Blue Birds too. You could see a spark of hope in her eyes when she talked to the Blue Birds. She did not, however, seem very fond of Yellow Birds.

As the school year dragged on, day after miserable day, some of the Yellow Birds began to be promoted to Blue Birds. Something was happening. Maybe they were going off their medication. Maybe they were tired of recess. I did not know the reason. Perhaps Yellow Birds were becoming extinct. I, however, remained a Yellow Bird.

That was the humiliation of my life. It was my "wake up call." From that time forward, I studied and began to get better grades. My mission became one of proving to myself and my parents that I wasn't as dumb as it may have appeared. My determination got me through high school, college, graduate school and seminary. I owe it all to being a Yellow Bird.

Sometimes these humiliations are little blessings in disguise. They can cause us to work harder and achieve more. They also can bring us "down a peg or two." Mother Theresa used to say, "little humiliations are often little gifts." They help us become more humble, more approachable, more human.

I was watching my favorite television program, "*Sesame Street*" and there, for the world to see, was a big Yellow Bird. As I watched, I realized that Big Bird was kind of dumb. But, you can't help but to like him. Everybody likes Big Bird. Being a Yellow Bird cannot be that bad. We are all Yellow Birds in one way or another. That is what keeps us human.

# Heads Up Yokosuka

## Community Announcements

**Base Movie Theater Closure –** The Benny Decker Theater will be closed from now to Dec. 2 for repairs and minor renovations. Call 243-5215 for more information.

**Fire Hydrant Flow Testing –** Annual fire hydrant flow testing will be conducted in Yokosuka Nov. 16 - 25. Hydrant testing can cause household water discoloration. If you notice discoloration, let the tap run for a few moments to clear. Please do not park in the vacinity of hydrants and remain clear of the area when testing is in progress. Call 243-4619 for more information.

**Navy College Office (NCO) Tuition Assistance (TA)** – NCO TA/Electronic TA (ETA) Briefs are conducted on the first and third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Command TA/ETA Briefs are provided for groups of eight or more at your location. Contact the Navy College Office at 243-8131 or by e-mail to navycollege_yokosuka@fe.navy.mil for more information.

**Seahawk Community Announcements and Article/photo Submissions** – Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Friday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Please include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail. Contact the Seahawk editor at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for or more information.

**Veterans Benefits –** The Department of Veterans Affairs Overseas Military Services Coordinator visits Naval Air Facility Atsugi monthly to provide VA benefit information to active duty service members, family members and other veterans. You don't have to be retired or separated to qualify for some VA benefits. The VA representative provides a detailed breifing on benefits in conjunction with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and is also available for appointments. Contact the Fleet and Family Support Center at 243-9632 for more information.

**Disastersafe.redcross.org –** When disaster strikes, your American Red Cross is there. Family and friends affected by disaster can register at disastersafe.redcross.org to let loved ones know of their well-being. Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as "safe and well." Contact the American Red Cross at 243-7490 for more information.

# Navy implements changes to job announcement, resume process

**By Lisa Marsh, CNFJ Human Resources Office**

The Department of Navy (DON) implemented changes to the DON Open Continuous Announcement (OCA) and Resume model Nov. 2.

The changes are the result of stakeholders input as well as data analysis. After analyzing DON OCA usage, the following changes are being made:

• **Elimination of NSPS Pay Bands 3 and above and equivalent systems from Merit U.S. OCAs**. These OCAs have the following numbering convention: DON + 4 digit job series number. Example: DON0801. Senior pay levels/grades in this case are defined as NSPS Pay Bands 3 and above and equivalent systems. Examples include YA-3, GS-15, and DP-IV.

Instead of OCAs, individual announcements will be posted as vacancies occur to inform applicants of the specific job and its requirements.

• **Closure of Merit Overseas OCAs**. These OCAs have the following numbering convention: DON + 4 digit job series number + -OS. Example: DON0801-OS.

Instead of OCAs, individual announcements will be posted as vacancies occur to inform applicants of specific job requirements as well as living/working conditions at the overseas location.

• **Acceptance of tailored resumes for individual announcements**. With the new resume process, applicants may, at their discretion, submit resumes that highlight their specific knowledge, skills and abilities or competencies relative to the specific job listed in the individual announcement.

These tailored resumes will be filed with the applicable individual announcements and will be considered only for those announcements. Please note that we will continue to maintain one resume policy for OCAs.

The changes will not apply to DCIPS, NCIS, Federal-wide Direct Hire or Defense Expedited Hiring Authority for Acquisition OCA models.

For more information, please visit the CHART applicant Web site at https://chart.donhr.navy.mil/info/chartappnotice.htm or the CHART applicant home page's "What's New?" section at https://chart.donhr.navy.mil/. You can also find this information under the "hot items" link at http://hro.cnfj.navy.mil/.

The Human Resources Office provides human resources consulting and advisory functions including staffing and classification, labor/employee relations, equal employment opportunity complaints process and management, and injury compensation administration for both U.S. Civil Service and Master Labor Contract/Indirect Hire Agreement employees. Customers served include 53 Navy and Marine Corps activities within 10 major commands located in seven different countries across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The full range of human resources services for employees from the United States, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Philippines, Guam and Diego Garcia are provided.

# Time is running out to complete Resident Satisfaction Survey

Resident Satisfaction Survey (RSS), called REACT, was distributed to your homes the first week of October. It provides an in-depth look and quantifiable answers to areas of resident satisfaction and concerns. This year is the 8th annual resident satisfaction survey.

This survey is part of our performance assessment program and your participation is crucial. Your cooperation and candid responses will help improve our service to you.

The survey package includes the survey, a pre-addressed/pre-paid return envelope and a comment card. Each survey has a unique survey identification, which is used for completing the survey online. The survey is confidential and the only identifier will be the survey identification. The Web site address for the survey is http://www.celassociates.com/231-29Navy.htm.

Don't miss your opportunity to help us serve you better. In only 10 minutes you can express your opinion regarding our services and performance. The survey ends Nov. 18.

If you have lost or misplaced your survey, send an e-mail to CEL at DONFHSurvey@celassociates.com and provide your house address to receive your survey identification by e-mail in order to complete the online survey.

If you have any questions, please contact the housing office at 243-9067 for Yokosuka, 242-4250 for Negishi and 246-8027 for Ikego.