



# Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2016

## Hurry...Make Plans Now!! Westmar Reunion

60's Reunion—Aug. 27, 2016 in Preston, MN at home of Jack and Shirley (Roder) Goutcher  
Anyone in the upper Midwest with a Westmar connection is also invited.

Come at 3 p.m., eat at 5:30 p.m. and stay till???  
26347 Jet Rd, Preston, MN 55965

In case of inclement weather the alternate site will be  
Preston United Methodist Church  
212 St. Anthony St., Preston, MN 55965

Contact John & Shirley by Aug 13, 2016, with your questions or to RSVP

Ph.: 507-765-2286 or

email coldcountrybeagle@yahoo.com

Bring yourselves, memories and a lawn chair if possible.

A very special treat for you!!

## Your Moment in Time:

A Role Model for Being Successful on Your Journey Challenge

Preface written by Robert A. Embree, Ph.D.

Poetry collection written by Valda J. Embree, B.A.



the poetry of Valda J. Franz Embree, compiled by Dr. Robert Embree to share with family and friends is now being made available to the larger York/Westmar Family.

Valda attended York College where she met her husband, Robert A. Embree '51, later earning her degree from Westmar in '71. She became alumni director at Westmar in '72 and held several positions over 20 years becoming the first woman vice president at Westmar. She was very active in community and professional organizations.

Valda passed away March 22, 2016 and Bob, with the assistance of family, has organized Valda's poems written between 2008 and her death.

## Scholarships Awarded

The Iowa College Foundation announced that it has awarded Westmar Endowment Scholarships totaling \$34,000 to 30 students who will be attending an Iowa private college or university in academic year 2016—2017. The Westmar Endowment Scholarship program is administered by ICF in cooperation with the Westmar University Alumni and Friends Assoc.

Westmar Presidential Scholarships of \$5,000 each were awarded to Amy Tuttle of Orange City, IA, niece of **Lynette Ann Tuttle** and **Daniel Mark Oswald** '89, who will be a freshman at Northwestern College; and to Emma Van Meeteren of Sheldon, IA, grandchild of **Lois Funk Van Meeteren** '60, who will also be a freshman at Northwestern College. In addition, 20 students received \$1,000 awards each and 8 students received \$500 awards each.

Cont. on page 3

## The Eagle is getting his feathers on.....Don't miss out on



being a part of this great sculpture to be placed on the Westmar Campus in the Westmar Memorial Park. Donations of any size are most welcome and donations of \$250 or more will be listed with the name of the donor and can be in honor or in memory of someone too.

Groups donations of \$250 or more.(i.e. Families, Dorms, a Class or organization) will also be on the plaque near the Eagle.

More on page 5.....

### Stand and Walk

I could stand alone at nine months,  
Or so my Baby Book said,  
Standing now at seventy nine  
I look where my feet have led.

The many steps I have taken  
Were not always on smooth ground,  
But life is a learning process  
Where obstacles do abound.

I walked with family assurance  
That I was on the right path,  
My husband would reassure me  
If I wavered on a task.

The secret of life time walking  
Involves one step at a time,  
Now years after first beginning  
The stellar pathway to climb.

Example of Valda Embree's handwritten Poetry - (3-23-09)

Cont. on page 2,- Alumni News

## 100 Years Ago —#

We have given Wayne Marty a little time off from the newsletter. As many of you know he has been working very hard on fundraising for the Eagle sculpture, as this is very important to him as it is for many of us with a special place for Westmar in our hearts and wanting the memory to live forever!

He tells me that in talking to many of you he has gotten many ideas for future stories, and is so pleased that Westmar educations have brought so many of you great success in life.

He plans to be ready for the next edition in November.

## Alumni News

*Your Moment in Time*.....cont. from page 1

Bob relates that when Valda was a grade school child a visiting guest to her classroom encouraged the students to “Pay attention to what you are seeing, and write about it”. Observing, remembering and writing became a habit for Valda, which continued throughout her entire life.

Her mastery of observation, of her surroundings, the weather, trees, cats, squirrels, of changes and of those things that remain, will delight you.

She describes her thoughts and feelings about a wide range of things. Some are playful, some are thoughtful, all reflect those things she held dear, family, place, nature, and learning.

We are offering **Your Moment in Time**: in two versions, a spiral bound copy for \$30 +shipping and handling or an e-book version for \$15. 155 pages of poetry plus an introduction and photos.

These can be ordered from the Wafa web site at [www.westmarcollege.com](http://www.westmarcollege.com) or by contacting the Wafa office.

### IN MEMORY/IN HONOR

Making a donation in someone's name that is deceased places that person's information in a special section of our MEMORY book, on a stand, in the Westmar Room. The page will also include donor's names. Donations may also be made in HONOR of someone living, with Westmar ties, and a page will also be entered for that person in that section of the book.

Additional Donations have been made to these memorials:

Valda Embree: by Robert Embree and Julie Dirks '75

Dr. Leon Scott: by: David '86 and Susanne Copenhaver;  
Julie Dirks (Eagle memorials will be separately noted)

## Alumni News

*This is an FYI.* In 2017, the **Jane '66 & Bob Kolbe '64** mutual live-in will have survived 50 years! (my how time flies when you're having fun.)

We thought it would take longer to get this old but damn, it happened. So, if neither of us tips over we will have a celebration (or is it a commemoration) of our joint life.

If you and other Westmar Alums want to get together, WE invite you to our look back at 5 decades, 1/2 Century of putting up with one another. This will, “Lord willin’ and the Sioux River don’t rise”, take place in Sioux Falls (SD) June of 2017.

We will be looking for a hard surface so walkers and wheel chairs can get around. Food will be provided (we've got connections) and Adult Beverages and soft drinks (other connections) will be provided.

If seeing our aging bodies isn't enough, there are some really great sites, museums, scientific areas of note and a zoo (other than our house) that come highly recommended.

So, Y'all put it on/in your Bucket List. Ya hear! The Kolbes

**Dave Schneider '51** and **Esther Spong Schneider '52** live in Minneapolis, MN. Dave retired from serving churches in Minnesota in '93, and since then, has served as Interim Pastor at several churches in MN. He has a “Bible Alive” ministry in which he does 12 different Bible character dramatizations (in costume), and has presented them in over 100 settings. Es and Dave also volunteer in leading a monthly worship and communion service in a retirement apartment setting, with Es at the piano and Dave leading the worship. They serve as Co-chairs of the seniors' group at their local UM Church. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June '16.

They are parents of Kristin, director of Faribault Public Pre-school: (husband, Steve, in Home Medical Supplies): Kathryn, (husband, Dan) - both are United Methodist pastors in Minneapolis: and Susan, (husband, Matthew) - both are United Church of Christ pastors in Wisconsin. Es & Dave have 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grands. Other Alum family members include: James H. Schneider, Bettie Schneider, Mary Schneider Pfaltzgraff, Richard C. Pfaltzgraff, Helen Spong Kruckenberg '45.



**Carmen A. Hughes '56** writes that she and husband **Richard '56**, were both teachers for over 30 years and both went on to get Masters. Richard from Greeley, CO in Industrial Education and she in Spanish Language Arts from Monterrey, Mexico. Richard retired in '87 and she retired in '90. They both taught in IA and IL.

They traveled in a motor home around the country. In 2003, the



# ALUMNI NEWS

United Methodist Church of Casa Grande, AZ built a new sanctuary. Richard was involved in the building of the Sanctuary Cross and the communion table, pictured.

Richard departed to be with our Lord, July 6, 2010, and Carmen traveled three years by herself in the motorhome. She now lives in Casa Grande most of the time. In 2013, she toured Israel and in 2016 she will do Zion's Hope Land and Sea Bible Prophecy Conference and Cruise. She does a lot of volunteering and is still very active. If you are traveling by Casa Grande, she invite you to stop and visit the United Methodist Church and attend a worship service.



Still Swinging after 50 Yrs.

Dec. 26, 1965—2015

**Jan MacCanon '64** and **Don Mitchell '62** were married at Grace EUB Church in Marshalltown, IA, with Dr. G. E. MacCanon (Jan's grandfather) officiating.

**Kevin Lynn Evans '86** writes from Aurelia, IA, that he is Superintendent of Schools for Alta Community School District, Alta, IA and Aurelia Community School District, Aurelia, IA.

The Onawa Democrat, Wednesday, May 18, 2016

## Celebrates 95th Birthday



A large number of friends and family gathered last Wednesday afternoon celebrating the 95th Birthday of Lorraine Davis of Onawa. Cake and coffee was served and Lorraine received gifts of cards and flowers while enjoying visiting with those in attendance

**Lorraine Bartel Davis '42**—used with permission



Lorraine's birthday falls on the same day in history that her late husband Leonard was serving his country aboard the USS Bunker Hill, and on that day was hit by two Kamikaze planes within 30 seconds of each other off the island of Kusu. 393 members of the crew were killed and 264 were injured. Leonard was one of the survivors who rushed to the aid of his wounded and dying fellow crewmen.

In memory of her husband and that day, Lorraine presented the Monona Co. Veterans Memorial Museum a check in memory of Leonard and all the heroic men that were aboard the USS Bunker Hill that fateful day.

Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display?

### Scholarships Awarded cont.....

Westmar became a member of the Iowa College Foundation in 1952 and received funds from ICF while a member. Following the closing of Westmar, in cooperation with the Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association, ICF received over \$700,000 from the Westmar Endowment to establish an endowment for scholarships.

\$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Maggie Dickman, child of **Donna Marie Wimmer Dickman '92**; Morgan Whitehead, child of **Ervin Whitehead '96** and **Lisa Whitehead** staff; Samantha Hoekstra, great niece of **Sara Allen Van Marel '59**; Katherine Bomgaars, grandchild of **Dorothy M. Bomgaars '67**; Shannon Vander Berg, grandchild of **Eldon Vander Berg '60**; Anna Bierma grandchild of **Henrietta Van Maanen Vanden Bosch '46**; Miranda Moss, child of **David Moss '71**; Joey Horstman, grandchild of **Carol Van Kalsbeek Oostra '68**; Madeline Huff child of **Edward Huff '92**; Nickolas Madsen grandchild of **Adrienne Valentine '97**; Kelsey Carpenter child of **Cheryl Peyton '95** and **Anthony Peyton** Faculty; Taylor Deegan grandchild of **RoseMary Deegan '70**; Molly McInnis child of **Gregory McInnis '92**; Tyler Bauer child of **Tonya Compton '88**; Bret Korthals, nephew of **Angela Kruger '94**; Holly Schneider child of **Thomas Schneider '91**; Victoria Clausen, child of **Matthew Clausen '86**; Michael Whitehead child of **Ervin Whitehead '96** and **Lisa Whitehead** Staff; Tanner Hilbrands, grandchild of **Hilda Snuttjer Hilbrands '51**; Taylor Weiler niece of **Brent Weiler '97** and grand-niece of **Marilyn Vollmecke** Staff.

\$500 Awards. Erica Kitchenmaster grandchild of **Arvin Kitchenmaster '63**; Jesse Nitzschke; Madison Martin; Domanique Burt; Andrew Heffner; Courtney Van Beek; Jolee Linden; Mackenzie Schnepf.

Congratulations to all award winners!!

February issue will include all donations made this year to Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association.



## Alumni Deaths

'44 Western Union—**Lois Mary Osborne Mars**, 94, of Primghar, IA, died June 8, 2016. She was a country school teacher and after marriage she and her husband farmed near Paullina for 49 years. Faith and family were important to her.

[www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'45 Western Union—**Nathan "Nate" Frank Frolkey**, 92, of Shell Knob, MO, died April 19, 2016. He was married to Norma Mae Herzig '68 who predeceased him. Nate taught school for 39 years. 24 years in Iowa and in '72 they moved to Shell Knob and he taught in Eureka Springs, Ark and then Flippin Ark. He was a member of Lions Club, played the baritone and was a founder of Central Comm. UMC and later Trinity Presbyterian Church in Shell Knob. [www.fohnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fohnfuneralhome.com)

'48 Western Union – **Irene L. Harrison Townsend**, 80 of Lawton, IA, died May 25, 2016. Services to be held at a later date. Morningside Chapel, Christy-Smith Funeral Home in Sioux City.

'49 Western Union – **Beulah Sonksen Renken**, 87, of Newman Grove, NE, died May 9, 2016. She was a school teacher for 40 years and a substitute teacher for an additional 18 years. She was a member of the Looking Glass UMC in rural Newman Grove. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'54 York – **Shirley Lou Scheierman Zogg**, 83, of Burlington, CO, died May 31, 2016. She and her husband Norm had owned Goodland Livestock Company and Shirley became known for her homemade pies that they sold in the kitchen of the sale barn. Later she worked several places as bookkeeper and finally was Sunday School Secretary for Stratton UMC for many years. Among survivors is her sister, **Lynn Scheierman Cressy** '65. [www.brownfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.brownfuneraldirectors.com) (She was one of 5 friends who kept Round Robin letters on the move for 66 years. Shirley is the first to leave this special circle.)

'56 – **James Driscoll**, 82, of LeMars, IA died April 25, 2016. He had served in the Army from '56 to '58 when he was honorably discharged. He taught history and physical education while coaching in Akron, IA. In '64 he went into selling insurance and later owned his own agency until selling it in 2000. He was involved in church and the Plymouth County Historical Museum. He is survived by his wife **Bonita "Bonnie" Brinkert Driscoll** '62. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'59 – **Barbara Haack**, 78, of Hartley, IA died May 7, 2016. She taught elementary school for many years, retiring in '96. She then volunteered many years at school and later at Village Northwest. She was also active in church. A sister, **Rebecca Thompson** '55, preceded her in death. [www.vanderploegfunerals.com](http://www.vanderploegfunerals.com)

'59 associate – **Dr. Ronald E. Severson**, 91, of LeMars, IA died June 11, 2016. "Doc" was a veterinarian in LeMars from '51 to '88. He was very active in community, church and civic organizations. He traveled to Europe and USSR in '65 with other veterinarians. He greatly enjoyed traveling and he and his wife made some 52 trips during retirement. Among survivors is daughter **Susan Hoffman** '74. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'59—**Mary Grace Blumer Ulrich**, 79, of Green Valley, AZ died July 27, 2016. She was part of the Home EC faculty in the

60's and 70's. She enjoyed sewing and traveling. She was a member of the United Methodist Church Women and PEO sisterhood. Survived by husband M. Gene Ulrich '58.

[www.meyerbroschapels.com](http://www.meyerbroschapels.com)

'61 – **Richard Rule**, 77, Montrose, CO, died April 6, 2016. He was married to **Janice Miller** '61, for over 55 years and their first year of marriage was spent living in the cabins on top of Red Mountain Pass. He retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in Lakewood, Co. His wife survives him.

[www.SunsetMesaFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SunsetMesaFuneralDirectors.com)

'66 – **Larry L. Bloemendaal**, 77, of Alton, IA died May 25, 2016. He was a farmer and also a fat cattle buyer for several packing houses. He also operated L. B. Cattle, raising feeder cattle. Survivors include his wife of 16 years, **Alice Lorraine Weber Bohr Bloemendaal** '68. His first wife had passed away in '98. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'67 – **David R. Johnson**, 67, of Alcester, SD, died May 11, 2016. He attended Westmar before enlisting in the US Navy. He returned to Westmar after the Navy. David worked for the US Postal Service as a rural mail carrier from '88 to retiring in 2003. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'73 – **Johnny Johnson**, 66, of Council Bluffs, IA, died May 31, 2016. While at Westmar he played football. He was employed with International Harvester Credit Corporation from 1973 to 1986 when he moved to Denver. He was injured in an auto accident and lost the use of his legs. He then became a full time father which he considered to be his greatest achievement and source of pride. The last 10 years, he lived in LeMars where he looked after his mother in law and father in law, Dorothy and Wayne Brown. Among survivors is his brother **Jay Bradley** '73, former wife **Carol Jean Brown Johnson** '71. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

STAFF:

**Helga M. Groetken**, 66, of LeMars, IA died April 10, 2016. She was born in Germany and met her husband Rick while he was serving overseas in Germany. She worked for a time at Westmar College as a cook. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

*Editors Note:* We appreciate the obituaries and other news items you send to us. We normally publish those deaths within the last 4 months, however, it is important for us to have older obituaries with which to update the information in our database on the last 100 years of alumni. Thank you for keeping in touch! We love hearing from you.

Newspaper articles we print with permission. Sometimes this takes time to receive permission especially if photos are involved. Thank You

Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display?

Contact Westmar by mail or e-mail. Addresses are listed on the back of this newsletter.



Dear Friends,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for granting me a Westmar Endowment Presidential Scholarship. I am honored to have been selected for this award. The funds will be a great help in financing my education.

I am excited about pursuing my interest in social work, Spanish, and art at the college level and all the wonderful opportunities I will have. I look forward to using my time, talents, and the knowledge I have gained to better serve my community.

Sincerely,

Amy Tuttle

### My Taxable Donation to the Eagle Fund

\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_, \$500 \_\_\_\_\_, \$250 \_\_\_\_\_,  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

A plaque listing individual or group donors of \$250 or more and honorees (if applicable) will be placed in the Eagle Plaza area.  
(All donors will be listed in the February 2017 WAFA newsletter)

Name

Address

E-mail

I wish my donation to be in honor of

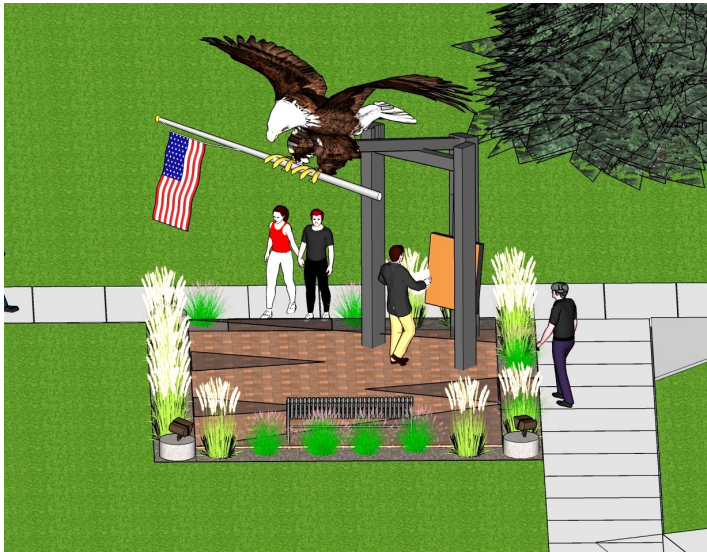
Make your check payable to WAFA and return to  
**WAFA**  
335 First Ave SW  
LeMars, IA 51031

Donate by PayPal at <http://www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html>  
"Donation in Honor" box. Indicate Eagle Fund and person you are honoring if applicable.



### The Eagle Committee-

Al Maser, Trustee, Wayne Marty, '53 and Faculty, JoAnn Skinner Schleis, '64, Janice Dunbar Kooiker '67, Barbara Wernli Collins, '73, Steve Collins, Friend, Cory Isebrand, '88



An illustration of the mounted Eagle Sculpture to be placed in the Westmar Memorial Park on the former Westmar Campus.

**A fundraising goal of \$40,000 by Sept. 1, 2016 has been ongoing and to date \$37,005 has been raised.**

**We are not stopping there....we need to raise funds to provide for continued maintenance for the area and the sculpture. The total amount raised will also determine the design of the plaza.**

You can help make the Eagle Fly and be a proud partner in this project. The sculpture will be magnificent and something we can be proud of to commemorate our dear Westmar College.



## 1977 Westmar Choral Tour

By Frank N. Summerside

In previous 1969 and 1973 tours, European hosts always mentioned that no official representative of the college was present. This time Dr. Courter and his wife, Ruth, were designated to lead the contingent. They were a most congenial couple and much appreciated. I'm sorry Dr. Courter is no longer alive to know my thankfulness for his sacrifice of time and energy. It meant a great deal also to those officials in Europe.

What lies ahead for a touring choir is to let the music define the day and the real purpose of the group. They need to forget the conflicts on campus they left behind. Our trip started out on a breathless note as there was a delay on the Ozark flight from Sioux City carrying most of the group. Fortunately, I had been on the earliest flight and was in Chicago to plead our case to hold the Frankfurt flight until all were on board.

We transferred in Frankfurt for Zurich. The lady from Zurich mentioned in the EXPO article had continued to correspond. She hosted our first concert. It was a smaller gathering in the church but no less appreciative. And, we had the opportunity to explore Zurich before heading for West Germany. Our first stop was to view the famous Schloss Hohenzollern Castle. Our next concert was in Esslingen where we had sung in 1969. Our host was Werner Schrade who had lived in LeMars and been a close friend of the Franz and Sylvia Schneider family of Le Mars. We had a capacity attendance.



From Esslingen we drove the Rhine journey to Koln. We had tried before to receive permission to sing in the Cathedral. This time there was hope. I went from one official to another, waited, and then was told to go to the Mary chapel and sing for a bit without announcement. Once we began, tourists quickly assembled around the area. Who will forget Susan Brasel's ('77) solo on "Were You There?" Memorable to this day, I'm sure, for all.

Our next overnight was Oldenburg and then on thru Copenhagen to Malmo. There we met our Scandinavian guide, Vidar Bjerkseth, a just finished student from the seminary in Bergen. He had been scheduled by our always helpful European arranger, Pastor Heinrich Meinhardt in Berlin, so designated by the synod. Bjerkseth is still a friend and correspondent and has been an official in the church at large thru the years. Our next concert was in Kalmar, long ago the capitol of Scandinavia. We were hosted by the Lions Club that I had contacted. We sang in the beautiful cathedral in the square just across the street from our hotel. It was an enthusiastic and large crowd on that Pentecost Sunday. The reviews can be read later.

Next came Stockholm, the Wasa Ship Museum, Milles Garden, a more delicate sculpture exhibit than Vigeland's in Oslo, City Hall, and a musical highlight being the Stockholm Royal Ballet. Students always enjoy the business district for shopping and I the music store for future repertoire. We still didn't have permission to sing in a church. More about that in the 1981 account. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we departed for Oslo. Our stay there was a youth hotel as Summer School at the University of Oslo had not yet begun. Touring included the Viking Ships, Kon Tiki, City Hall and the famous Munch museum and his "The Scream," later made famous when it was stolen. And, we wouldn't miss Frogner Park and the Vigeland sculptures. On the evening of June 4<sup>th</sup>, we sang at the Methodist church to an enthusiastic crowd



again. And, we also sang for the morning service next day. Later we drove to the ski resort city of Geilo and the Highland Hotel's famous smorgasbord, also viewing snow, on our way next day to Bergen. Also, on that day was a stop at Norway's version of Niagara Falls, the smashing Voringfoss waterfall.



We had some fjord crossings before reaching Central Methodist church and parceled out for homestays.

Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, was free in the morning, with an afternoon trip to Grieg's home, a recital there and a stop on the way back at a historic stave church. It was later vandalized but restored by the '81 trip. Our concert that evening was well received. See review. Wednesday was a hydrofoil ride to Stavanger. For some it was hours of an amusement ride on water. One man's stomach was still in survival mode that night and he missed the concert in the cathedral. This acoustically and beautiful place had a Le Mars connection. Swen Gjovaag, father of my neighbor, Sandy Ihrke, was confirmed in the church. Swen had retired over on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. across from Memorial Hall after an illustrious career as a commer-

### Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

The next Wafa quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 17, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All Wafa members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

#### Current Board Members:

**January 2016 – January 2018 term**

Cory Isebrand '88, Amy Allen Kelly '85  
Stuart Fischer '84, Rosemary Jeys Radloff '93 + Staff

**January 2015—January 2017 term**

Barbara Wernli Collins '73 and Steve Collins Attd, Craig Hoffman '88, Jeff Neary '81, Steve Wick '78



cial artist in Sioux Falls. He was so thrilled to have us sing in his home church.

It is also the home of the famed Stavanger Boys Choir. After our concert that night, their manager asked me, how could one do a tour in the U. S.? I offered, in thanks for their hospitality, to arrange one and we soon heard them more than once in Le Mars. We heard a magnificent organ there with a short recital just for us. There were many American hosts as the oil industry was flourishing off the Stavanger coast. See Review.

Next day we took a fast train to Kristiansand, said good-bye to Vidar at the dock and took a ferry to Hirthals, Denmark with an overnight in Aalborg. Next was a bus ride to Hamburg and a noisy stay in a youth hostel. Pastor Meinhardt met us and warned us to be aware of our next day's train ride thru East Ger-



Bleak countryside in East Germany. Hand threshing the crop.

many. Keep the cameras in their cases! It was a grim scene from the train. We had home stays and then off to East Berlin to sing for morning services. Due to political tensions Pastor Meinhardt requested I divide the Chorale into two groups so there

would be less attention at the crossing. **Bill Wedeking** (77) agreed to lead the second group and all went well. But, they kept the windows of the church closed for less attention by passersby.

Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> we heard a political discussion at City Hall, free time and then the magnificent Berlin Opera in the evening. As our cab let us out at that venue, some Chorale members ran over to exclaim, "have you heard about **Henrietta Klarenbeek** ('79)?" She had a broken a bone but was okay. And, I thought we had made it thru the trip without mishap! Tuesday was a late start and then touring the city with reminders of Germany of the '30's and '40's. We had a short rehearsal, dinner at the Methodist church, and our final concert to a foot stamping congregation after we sang, "There's a Little Wheel A'Turnin." And, as one student wrote in her review of the tours' final concert, "One of the most inspiring moments of the whole tour was when we were singing

"Beautiful Savior." Everyone was ready to start crying, and we sang "Lord of the Nations," and it thundered during that breath. It was such



perfect timing, that it did show us that our Savior is the Lord of all of us, whether we're in our native country, or with people from a foreign country, we all have the same Christian beliefs."

*Reviews:* (Translated by Vidar Bjerkseth, Bergin)

**Kalmar Tidningen** newspaper— Ostra Smaland —May 31, 1977 "It is not often the people of Kalmar have the opportunity of listening to a college choir of the same standard as Westmar's Chorale showed in their concert in the Kalmar Dom on the day of Pentecost. The choir, consisting of only amateurs, sounded like something else.

Under their masterful conductor, Frank N. Summerside, they received a lot of spontaneous applause from the audience of about five hundred. A great ovation was especially accorded the inspired way of their presenting Spirituals.

**Tidningen Barometern** newspaper- in Kalmar - May 31 - 2,1977 "The middle of the USA is not the most interesting part of the country. In the middle of some Iowa cornfields, you will find LeMars, a city of about ten thousand. In Le Mars you will find Westmar College, belonging to the United Methodists. And then Iowa becomes exciting. This time Kalmar had the opportunity of being the only Swedish city that had the honor of hosting the Chorale, which is an elite choir being up to both European and Continental standards.

Professor Summerside led his choir with a tender and steady hand through a long but not tiring program. I especially noted Graun's "Surely He Hath Born Our Grievs," a motet in a new Romantic style and the pieces of the American, Ned Rorem, using a more modern text of "God is My Salvation." But the choir's presentation of two well-known Spirituals took the prize. The very different repertoire was interpreted in a superb way.

After the Dean of the college had given some greetings, the choir continued. Muller's "Das Grosse Licht," with an explosive ending remained in my thoughts. The same also happened in both American composer's contributions, Randall Thompson's meditative "Alleluia" and Kenneth Jennings colorful "With a Voice of Singing." The steel-bright endings were sublime. **Marcia Stassen** (79) played "Preludium, Fugue and Canzonnoa in C" of Buxtehude. Afterwards, the choir sang a group of Spirituals, of which "Were You There" penetrated my whole being, especially thanks to the alto soloist's pure expression. The conductor led the choir almost without any visible motions. He almost played a sensitive vocal instrument, they following even his most subtle suggestions. The concert was a memorable experience to the pleasantly large audience who had found their way to the Dom church the evening of Pentecost Day.

**Bergen, Norway** - June 7, 1977 - Church Press: "A choir visit of rare quality is the characteristic which best describes the concert of the Westmar Chorale from Iowa. That it is possible to sing with such a quality and precision is almost incredible. But the concert given in Central Methodist Church in Bergen indicated it was. The soloists and variety in repertoire were impressive. This choir retained special quality throughout the evening that brought joy to the audience. This was a visit we will gladly have again.

**Stavanger Aftenblad** newspaper- June 9, 1977 - Torstein Gilje, reviewer: Headline "American Choir of a High Standard".

1977 Chorale cont.....

Occasionally Stavanger is visited by an American choir. They are as a

rule of a high standard and the Westmar Chorale from Westmar College in Iowa which gave a concert in the cathedral yesterday fit into this mold. Like most of the college choirs we have heard, the conductor, Professor Summerside, let the singers sing out. Actually, he let the singing occur without any fear that the voices would be strained. This way of singing is often missed in the Norwegian choirs. The program was comprehensive, with much church repertoire of today and from several countries, music generally unknown, but exciting. All that was presented was memorized and was characterized by precision. A choir that knows its music so well allows itself to be conducted by the conductor as an instrument. At the same time the singers are themselves

free and the music itself becomes free and its natural spirit and joy is evident.

**Stavanger, Norway-** Rogaland's Avis- June 9, 1977 – Eystein Paulsen, reviewer: "A brilliant American college choir gave a concert in the Stavanger cathedral which was well attended. The Westmar Chorale is a mixed choir and sings a cappella, but sings with a marked instrumental effect even when humming. The phrasing is often orchestral, in that the music becomes unusually fluid as the phrases are smoothly and intensely tied together. However, their attacks and the tone production are excellent. Such a style of singing is completely convincing.

The excellent conductor, Frank N. Summerside, directed the choir as if he were playing on an organ and led the choir to an unusually high level and quality. The choir sang in the demanding and strongly varied program of compositions from many countries and periods with supreme skill."



Pre '61 alumni—From Left: Gay Feind Weber, Lee Tubach, Ed Baack, Beth Cerka, Joe Brice, Marcia Savage, Byron Bowsher, Sharon K. Smith McCormick, Ellie Loechner Williams, Wayne Marty, Wanda Powell Schneider, Larry Grauberger, Jannette Reece Hutchison.

*This years Colorado Westmar Reunion was held at the Northglenn United Methodist Church on June 11th. There were 30 who attended.*

# Colorado Reunion



Post '62 alumni—From Left: Linda Osborne Biery, LaVerne Koelling, Anita Harrison Ervin, Roger James, Kathy Preston James, Margene Merkle Hamilton, Lynn Scheierman Cressy, Jolane Bakley, Nancy Heitmann Berry, Rich Woelfle, and Zoe Lanam Woelfle.



Fleece jackets by Port Authority in Women's or Men's sizes. Machine wash in Royal Blue or Grey—\$40 plus postage.



Check out the Website for lots of memorabilia!! Other than shirts and glasses you can find Choral CD's and other items. You can place your order at the website or contact us at the office. [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org) or call 712-546-8759 and leave message.



# 80's REUNION with MADRIGALS



Photo by Dennis Morrice '86 of KLEM: Front Row from left: Dr. Bob Embree, Faculty, Ruth Parmer Phelps '80, Susan Lawrence Schneider '81, Brenda Krieger Kim '82, Kristi Baier Keast '83, Karyn Sellers Brinkmeyer '82, Melody Murra Olson '82, June Mikkelsen '88, Randy Preston '83, Deen Huben '84, and Keith Emerson '84. Second row: Greg Loy '81, Yvonne Conraads Loy '80, Helen Guse '83, Paulette Kabot Hamlin '82, Kathy Gillespie Sautter '81, Sara Poston Eckkhoff '82, Susan Zoeller Walkup '81, Lori Steel Huben '84, Deb Johnson Hafner '85, Susan Oehlerking Smith '85, Susie Migill Trapp '84, Dean Trapp '84 Third Row: Dr. Wayne Mitchell, Faculty, Wayne Browne '84, Larry Clatt '85, Todd Hafner '84, and G. Timothy Hoffman '81. Not pictured were Jeff and Kathy Betsworth Neary '81 and Dr. Wayne Marty, Faculty.



Those attending the reunion enjoyed a tour of the campus, as well as other sites in LeMars including the progress of the Eagle Sculpture. Those members of the Madrigal held a concert Sat. night to which the public was invited. Most attendees visited "Bob's" for hot dogs and the Ice Cream Parlor.

The photo shows Wayne Marty, Faculty and tour guide, check the Eagle Sculpture which funds are being raised for. It is to be placed on the former Westmar College campus in the current Westmar Park.



Madrigal Singers at Reunion

From Left: Susan Zoeller Walkup '81, Kathy Gillespie Sautter '81, Paulette Kabot Hamlin '82, G. Timothy Hoffman '81, Jeff Neary '81, Lori Steel Huben '84, Dean Trapp '84, Ruth Parmer Phelps '80, Kristi Baier Keast '83, Randy Preston '83, Karyn Sellers Brinkmeyer '82, Sara Poston Eckkhoff '82, and Wayne Mitchell, director.

Westmar University Alumni & Friends Association  
335 First Avenue S.W.  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031  
Ph: 712-546-8759



**Alumni Office Staff**

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: Executive Director  
JoAnn (Skinner) Schleis '64 + staff:  
Communications Director and Newsletter Editor  
Mary Holub: Financial Director

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Most newsletters are now sent by email to reduce office costs of printing and postage. We send to a few who do not have email or who have a special request. Get it on line and get it in color—make the print as large as you like. Get it where ever you get your email whether at home or on vacation. It's the best way!!

**Be sure to check out our ever-changing website at:**  
<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>. We offer online shopping and membership. Suggestions are always welcome.

**Current Members:** You will receive **only one** reminder postcard when it is time to renew your membership. Please pass the form below on to other Westmar Alum and encourage them to be a Wafa member.

**What's Happening with You? Tell Us!**

We are interested in knowing what has recently (or not so recently) happened in your life. Promotions? Marriage? Births or deaths? Honors or awards? Graduate degree? Semi- or full retirement? Pass on the information so we can print it and spread the good news!

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