



PNG/KLS/SPLC 2023 Reunion

Starts: Thursday October 5, 2023 at 3 pm
Ends: Sunday October 8, 2023 at 2 pm



2021 reunion at Mt Olivet - PNG artifact table

May Newsletter

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GREETINGS WANTOKS

The 2023 reunion is now five months away.

We hope you are planning to attend.

In this email you'll find:

- information on the upcoming 2023 PNG reunion
 - reservations, fees, and highlights
 - photos of past reunions
- a link to our playlist of past Zoom Gatherings
- a link to Barb (Hueter) Reardon's memorial service, June 2
 - Ruth Van Reken book suggestion

The PNG-KLS-SPLC Wantok Reunion

Thursday October 5, 2023 - Sunday October 8, 2023

Where: Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota

<https://mtolivetretreat.org/>

Featured Speakers:

Ruth Van Reken and Dr. George Weiblen will lead multiple sessions and discussions:

Ruth will share more of her wisdom and research about growing up in a third culture such as PNG. A session will focus on attachment issues and related trauma that third culture kids often experience, and ways to cope. Individuals and small groups can meet with Ruth throughout the reunion.

George is a University of Minnesota professor and is Science Director and Curator of Plants at the U's Bell Museum. His specialty is the interaction of flowering plants with insect pollinators and pests. George will update us on his ongoing research in PNG, plus share PNG collections, and discuss safe travel options with those interested in visiting PNG. We are excited that his PNG national colleagues at the New Guinea Binatang Research Center in Madang will join us via Zoom for a session. Click on this link to learn about his outstanding work in PNG.

<https://cbs.umn.edu/blog-posts/weiblen-recognized-community-engagement>

And our wantoks: **Jonathan Frerichs** has agreed to share stories about his adventures growing up in PNG, and **Marion** will join him to talk about their return to work in PNG and later life stories.

Reservations: Watch for the reservation form coming to you next week from your Reunion Committee. Once you receive it, please respond ASAP, then watch for an invoice that will be returned to you within a week. Final payment is due by September 15, 2023.

Fees: Rates cover all program and facility costs

For the full three-day reunion

Motel Rooms - single \$561.00 all meals

Motel Rooms - double \$419.00 all meals

Dorm Boarders - \$365.00 all meals

For partial stay

Dorm - 2 nights 6 meals \$245.00

Day Guest - 1 meal \$55.00

Day Guest - 2 meals \$72.00

Day Guest - 3 meals \$83.00

Off-site Hotel: For those preferring to stay off-site, there is a motel option 14 miles away from Mount Olivet at the Baymont by Windom in Lakeville. A block of rooms is reserved at \$75 per night and continental breakfast is offered. (see the link to Baymont's website below). If you choose this option, then you can register for your choice of 'Day Guest' rates listed above.

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/lakeville-minnesota/baymont-inn-and-suites-lakeville/overview?>

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Highlights:

Join us for fun activities: chatting with wantoks, singing by the campfire, volleyball with Phil, walking the trails, and swimming with Maggie, to name a few.

Saturday's Remembrance Service: the hour before this special service will be filled with music. If you have musical talent, we'd like to offer you a chance to share it with your fellow wantoks. Please communicate your interest with the planning group by responding through the email below.

PNGreunion2023@gmail.com

PHOTOS OF PAST PNG REUNIONS

Do you have a photo of a reunion that you would like to see in a future newsletter? Please send it to Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover at gschoonover04@msn.com



2014 reunion at Mt Olivet. Luce and Tim Johnson



1974 reunion in Stillwater, Minnesota. Greg Heist



Back Row: Phil Holden with Michele Behrend, Evelyn Fenske, Elsie Hebb, Jane Schubert, Heather & Van Oosthout, Lisa Meesplay, Murdoch, Ron Schantz, Catherine & Jonathan Frentzke, Keith Meyer, Gary Schoonover, Eric Winters, Malcolm Thompson, Jon Winters, Julian & John Great, Murray & Doris (Helen) Morymer, Joel & Tim Johnson, Karen & Jim Schulz, Mark & Fredi Brendt, Christopher Leekie, Leslie Welch
Seated: Carrie Schulz, Mark Huster, Margaret Schulz, Kay Edwards, Christy Meesplay, Paula Erikson, Dianne Tuff, Elmer Radke, Tom Mitchell, Marilyn Tuff, Barbara Marnell
Sitting on the grass: David Huster, Marion French, Cynthia Mansur, Darlene & Doris Dierschel, Danny Heist, Dawn Dierschel, Connie Mansur, Ted & Chiga Schulz, Paula Schulz, Mary Brendt, Irene & Tanya Bentz

2017 at Mt Olivet (Sam Brandt photo)

LINK TO PAST ZOOM GATHERINGS

Videos of the large group presentations, small group discussions and final large group wrap-up of past Zooms are available on our reunion website.

Click on the blue tab below to access them. Once in the link, use the video tabs to find the one you want to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLESkULnS-LMW6u-AmGBa6SJ0kGOg76DKf>

Barb (Hueter) Reardon

We miss Barb's wisdom and presence in our planning group. Her Celebration of Life service will be livestreamed on numerous platforms at 2pm EST (USA Eastern Time Zone), and will be available for the next number of weeks. You can watch and worship online on the following:

1. Their YouTube Chanel - search YouTube for Christ Bexley@christbexley6359
2. Their website at <https://christbexley.org/welcome/sermons/>
3. Their Facebook at Christbexley



"Third Culture Kids - the Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds" by Ruth Van Reken and Dave Pollock

We encourage you to read this book as It will give you insight into how our boarding school and mission-focused childhood impacted our lives in many different ways.

Please Share This Newsletter

If you know a fellow wantok who doesn't receive our newsletters, please forward it to them and suggest they get on our email list at

PNGreunion2023@gmail.com

or our Facebook page:
PNG/KLS/SPLC

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1468705713377972>

We would like to get the word out to as many as possible.

Thank you

The 2023 PNG Reunion Planning Committee

Mark Brandt, Phil Davis, Tim Johnson, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, Paula (Schulz) Mitchell, Grace (Senff) Payne, Else (Helbig) Schardt, Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover, Gary Schoonover, Mark Singh-Hueter, Dianne Tuff, Les Walck