



PNG/KLS/SPLC 2023 Reunion

Starts: Thursday October 5, 2023 at 3 pm

Ends: Sunday October 8, 2023 at 2 pm



A collection of PNG artifacts at the 2021 PNG reunion.

August 2023 Newsletter

GREETINGS WANTOKS

The 2023 reunion is now a little over a month away. It is shaping up to be a delightful, uplifting, informative and moving event. If you have not yet registered to attend, you are urged to do so - there is limited room remaining.

In this email you'll find:

- A reservation link
- Wantoks attending
- Information on the reunion, speakers and fees
 - Reunion highlights
 - Online participation
 - Book suggestion
- Meet members of our team - Les Walck and Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover
- Link to past Zoom Gatherings

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

To request a reservation form, click on the link below:

[Request for Reservation Form](#)

We request payment asap, but final payment is due by September 15th, 2023.

(Continued on next page)

41 Wantoks Are Attending

Fred Brandt, Mark and Merrily Brandt, Mary (Brandt) Croft
Miriam (Senff) Bunn, Tanya (Senff) Mayer, Grace (Senff) Payne
Jonathan Davis, Phil Davis, Loretta Davis
Donna (Daechsel) Smallwood, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, Darlene (Daechsel) Schnuelle
Jonathan and Marian Frerichs, Peter Frerichs, Ruth (Imbrock) Frerichs, Angela Frerichs
Tim and Carol Imbrock
Paul Johnson and Melanie Lewis
Keith and Christy (Mesplay) Moyer, Lisa (Mesplay) Turvey
Connie (Mansur) Hassan, Cynthia (Mansur) and Gary Schoonover
Daniel Heist
David Hueter, Mark Singh-Hueter
Else (Helbig) and Ron Schardt
Maggie Tuff, Dianne Tuff and Murdoch Johnson
Martin Voss
Leslie Walck
Eric Walters
Ruth Van Reken - speaker
George Weiblen - speaker

The PNG-KLS-SPLC Wantok Reunion

Thursday October 5 - Sunday October 8, 2023

Where: Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota
<https://mtolivetretreat.org/>

Featured Speakers:

Jonathan and Marian Frerichs - sharing stories about their adventures in PNG and around the world.

Ruth Van Reken - will lead sessions on Friday and Saturday. One session will focus on attachment issues and related trauma that TCK's often experience. A small group opportunity on Saturday will focus on ways to cope. Ruth enjoys meeting all attendees - so plan on chatting with her during a meal or open time.

George Weiblen - is excited about traveling to PNG this month - the first time since COVID. On Friday evening, he will be joined (via Zoom) by Maling Rimandai who works at their research station in Madang. He is a graduate of Good Shepherd Lutheran High School in Baitabag and recently from Martin Luther Seminary in Lae. From 2007-2016, they studied rainforest plants and insects in remote locations across PNG. You can check out the Research Center's website here - <https://www.ngbinatang.com/>. On Saturday he plans to share samples of his collections from PNG, and describe the sustained effort by local landowners to reserve a large tract of their forest estate in spite of the pandemic. In a small group setting, he'll discuss safe travel options with those who consider visiting there. We are excited to announce that George plans to stay overnight with us on Friday.

Fees: There is still room for you!

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 Mt Olivet at the Baymont by Wyndham in Lakeville. Click on the blue tab below to go to their website. A block of rooms is reserved at \$75 per night and continental breakfast is offered. If you choose this option, then register for the 'Day Guest' rates listed above.

[Baymont by Windom](#)

We are grateful for the assistance provided by Thrivent.
Their support has helped with printing, supplies, and gifts.
Thanks Thrivent. Live Generously.

Reunion Highlights

Fun Activities

Chatting with the speakers and fellow wantoks, singing by the campfire (bring your harmonica, ukelele or flute), pickleball with Gary, volleyball with Phil, walking the trails, and swimming with Maggie, to name a few.

Saturday Remembrance Service

8 PM, October 7, 2023

Once again, this year's Reunion will have a *Service of Remembering Loved Ones*. A couple changes will enhance the service.

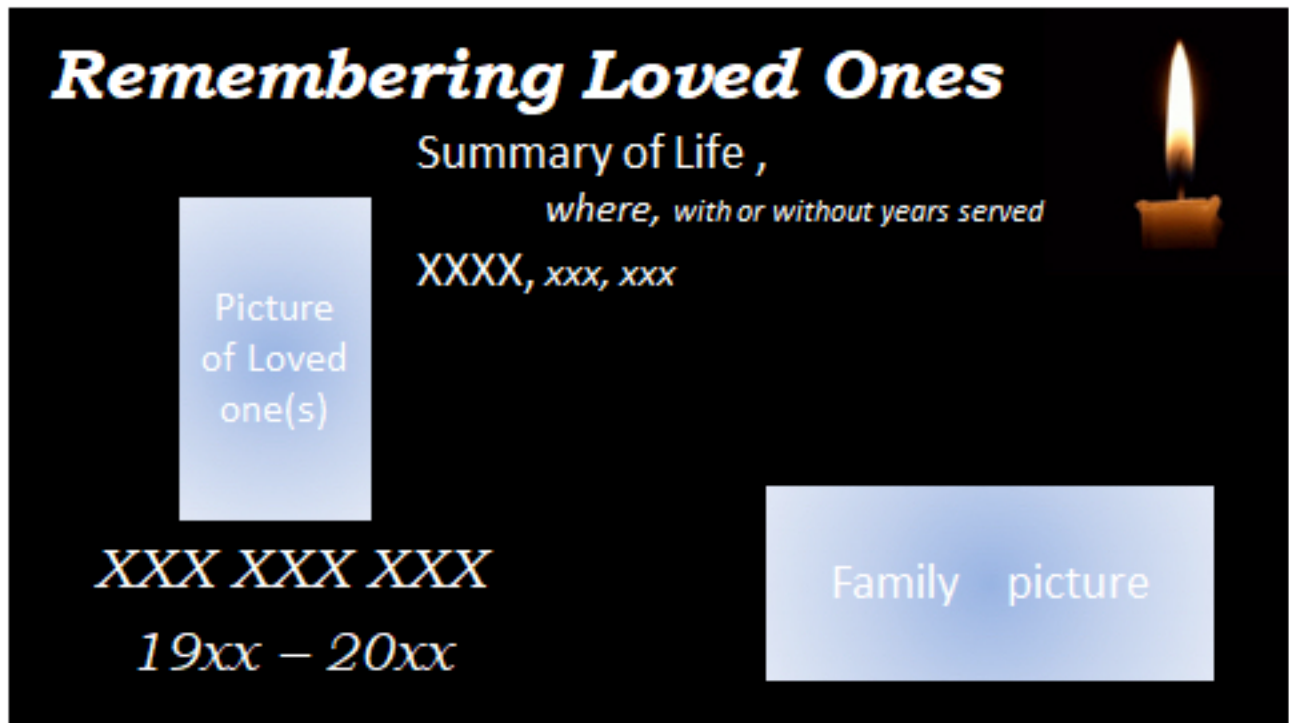
- Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would you like to share your music live during an extended prelude before the service? Please pray about sharing your talents with your wantoks, and let us know. There is a link below.

- Would you like to remember your loved one(s) with a couple pictures and brief highlights of their service in PNG? A meditative PowerPoint Presentation is being developed for the beginning of the service. If you would be willing to share, please submit the following:
 - Name, and years of life,
 - A picture of your loved one (it can include their spouse),
 - A family picture,
 - Brief highlights of their service in PNG.
- You can submit this information ahead of time to Les via the link below. The sooner the better, to allow for the PowerPoint presentation to be developed.
- As in the past, group participation will be encouraged. So-o-o if you would like to be a reader of scripture, prayers, or names during the service, please let Les know.

Send Les a message by clicking on this link:

lwalck748@gmail.com

The PowerPoint slide will look something like this:



Online Participation

If you cannot attend in person, the planners want to make it possible for you to participate online.

Several of the sessions will be made available online via Zoom!

- Join us online to hear the conversation with *Ruth Van Reken* on attachment issues and related trauma that third culture kids often experience;
- Or hear *Dr. George Weiblen* with his PNG national colleague at the New Guinea Binatang Research Center in Madang;
- Or listen in as *Jonathan & Marian Frerichs* share stories about adventures in PNG and their work around the world.
- Join in via Zoom for the Remembrance Service Saturday evening;
- Or for the Sunday Worship Service.

Details on how to join in will be passed along in the week prior to the reunion.

To make all this possible, free-will donations are welcomed! Please consider contributing as it will help cover reunion costs. To make a free-will donation, please click on either the blue 'Donation' link or scan the accompanying QR code below.

[Donations](#)



"Third Culture Kids - the Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds"

by Ruth Van Reken and Dave Pollock

This is a book that gives insight into how our boarding school and mission-focused childhoods impacted our lives in many different ways.

We encourage you to read it.

Meet Members of Our Planning Team

Two members of our team share about their lives and involvement in planning the reunion.

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LES WALCK



First photo: with daughter Callie at *Concert at the Capitol* on July 4th, 2023 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Second photo: Pastor at Colfax Lutheran Church, the year before retiring.

Where do you live? Urbandale, Des Moines, Iowa is now my home.

What kind of work did you do? I retired in September of 2021 from 45 years in Parish Ministry as an ordained pastor.

What did your parents do? They served as missionaries for 26 years in Papua New Guinea, from 1946-1972. My dad, Alfred, served as a circuit missionary at Nobonob, 1946-1950; Headmaster at Baitabag Area School, 1950-1961; district missionary at Madang, 1962; Evangelism school at Amron 1963-1965; Editor of the New Guinea Lutheran 1966-1972; Parish/interim pastor and Nursing Home ministry in Minnesota and Iowa, 1973-2017. He also had a hobby of researching different shapes of crosses for the varied symbolisms they contained. He enjoyed writing up his findings and sharing them with different church groups.

My mom, Marion, worked by his side, and while at Baitabag, was the chief mimeographer of Sunday School lessons for all the mission stations of the Lutheran Mission. She also taught ESL for students at Baitabag who wanted to improve their use of English. Sewing classes and Bible studies for NG women in the various stations they lived at were also part of her life. Her proudest accomplishment was raising four sons.

What schools did you attend?

Home-schooled, grades 1-3

Primary A in Madang, grades 4-6

Correspondence School, grades 7-8

Murray High School, St Paul, MN, grade 9

SPLC, grades 9-12

University of Queensland, Year 1

Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, 1968-1971

Mansfield College at the University of Oxford, UK, 1971-1973

Luther Seminary, St Paul, Mn 1973-1976

University of Notre Dame, 1989-1995

What is your role on the team? I help on the Program Committee, particularly in preparing the Timeline of activities for reunions, designing the reunion tote bags, as well as developing the Saturday night Memorial Service.

Share something that had a big impact on your life. Marriage to my wife and her death. Adopting our daughter. Studies at SPLC, U of QLD, Augsburg, Oxford, Luther Seminary and Notre Dame.

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CYNTHIA (MANSUR) SCHOONOVER



First photo - playing dress-up with Connie at Banz.

Second photo - enjoying a night out in December 2022 at *Miracle at Big Rock*.

Where do you live? Hugo, Minnesota has been home for my husband, Gary, and me since 1977. I was determined to stay in one spot and not move again!

What kind of work did you do? I had a wonderful 40-year career as a registered nurse at Regions Hospital in St Paul, MN, retiring in 2017. Presently, I love being with family and friends, playing pickleball, and volunteering at church and with our local historical commission.

What did your parents do? They arrived in PNG in 1948, spent a year in Ogelbeng with the Doerings, and then a year in Kerowagi when the Hannemans went on furlough. In 1951, Dad built the station at Banz and they remained there until leaving in 1967. Mother worked hard, taking care of the needs of the station and seven kids! She was the glue that held us all together. After returning to the US, Dad took Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), then worked as a counselor at several places including Lutheran Social Service in Minneapolis, Hazelden Treatment Center, and the Women's Prison in Shakopee, MN. After Dad retired in 1992, they moved to warmer climates in Texas, and took long trips in their travel trailer, visiting friends and family throughout the US.

What schools did you attend?

1st - 2nd grades - Banz

3rd grade - Houston, Texas

4th-6th grades - KLS

7-9th grades - SPLC

10th grade - Murray High School, St Paul, MN

11th grade - Ross S Sterling High School, Houston, Texas

12th grade - Mounds View High School, St Paul, MN

1970-1971 - Winona State College, Winona, MN (then decided college wasn't for me)

1974-1976 - North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park, MN

What is your role on the team? I head up the Program team and enjoy working with a group of people who have great ideas and a passion for all things PNG. I also help with the newsletter and like putting words and pictures together to share information and hopefully spark interest in the reunion!

Share something that had a big impact on your life. The boarding school experience - learning how to live with strangers who become your friends; realizing how important your family is but coming to understand that you can survive when away from them, wanting roots.

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Link to Past Zoom Gatherings

Videos of various Zoom Gatherings are available on our reunion website.

Click on the link below to access them.

<https://pngklssplc.org/videos-from-zoom-meetings/>

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.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!

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
***Remembering, honoring and missing Barb (Hueter) Reardon**