

PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion

October 5 – 8, 2023

Schedule of Activities

# Wantok Bung, 2023

“TCK–The Tie that Binds Us All”



*The picture is of a wooden carving of the official Papua New Guinea National Emblem.  
It was a gift from students at Balob Teachers College where Else Schardt had taught for 7 years.  
It has now been passed on to one of Ron and Else's grandchildren.*

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center • Farmington MN 952-469-2175

• [www.mtolivetretreat.org](http://www.mtolivetretreat.org)

# PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion

## Schedule of Activities

### October 5 – 8, 2023

***WELCOME to the 2023 Reunion!***

*The whole weekend has many options for solo or group activities.*

#### ***Activities to enjoy for individuals or groups***

##### ***Outdoor options***

- ❖ Equipment is available for bocce ball, basketball, football, frisbee, horseshoes, softball, or volleyball. New this year is PICKLE BALL! Come out and try it!
- ❖ 5 miles of hiking trails can be explored; a map is available.
- ❖ A prayer/meditation labyrinth and an outdoor chapel are available.

##### ***Indoor options***

- ❖ Take in the Reunion displays, photo shows, and a large, historic, detailed map of the PNG Lutheran Mission, all in the Showy Orchis Room or in the Chapel.
- ❖ Informal conversations can take place in Showy Orchis, dining room, Cornell House, where the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lounge are located.
- ❖ Enjoy the pool, whirlpool & sauna, at posted hours or by request.
- ❖ Check out the Game room with ping pong, pool or foosball.
- ❖ Quieter times can be enjoyed in the Library, or the Lounge with TV/DVD, board games.

***Wireless access*** is available throughout the buildings.

#### ***What about our health and safety in relation to COVID 19 at this time?***

- ❖ All staff and volunteers at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center have been required to be fully vaccinated since October 1, 2021. Any exempt staff submits a weekly negative COVID test.
- ❖ Staff, volunteers, and guests (regardless of vaccination status) are not required to wear masks, but they are encouraged to do so whenever community spread of COVID is high.
- ❖ Mount Olivet and our Reunion committee uses the MN Department of Health guidelines to inform current practices. Any Reunion participant who tests positive for COVID during the reunion, or within 2 days before or after, should let Dianne Tuff know so that others can be informed.

#### ***Other helpful Information***

- ❖ **Meals** are at 8:00 AM, 12 Noon and 6:00 PM in the Trillium Dining Room, Ruth Youngdahl Lodge.
  - All meals are served cafeteria style.
  - Food will be available for only the first 20 minutes of the meal time.
  - After the meal, the staff would like a few minutes to clean up the dining room.

- ❖ A **Beverage Bar** is available any time in the Trillium Dining Room.
  - It includes coffee, tea, flavored syrups, and *muliwara*, aka lemonade.
  - Snacks are also available in the dining room.
- ❖ **Afternoon Activities** on Friday and Saturday.
  - Have fun playing bocce ball, basketball, football, frisbee, horseshoes, softball, or volleyball. New this year is PICKLE BALL! Come out and try it!
  - Also possible are swimming in the pool, using the sauna, taking a walk, or enjoying some unstructured time. Listen for announcements.
- ❖ **Calling all Photographers!**
  - Please share your candid photos of wantoks and activities during this year's Reunion. Share them with Mark Singh-Hueter, as he will prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the **Farewell** time on Sunday. Rest assured, photos will NOT be shared outside the group unless permission is received; otherwise they will remain within this group.
- ❖ Each evening enjoy a **Campfire** at the Fire Ring.
  - In case of inclement weather, Campfire will be at the fireplace in Showy Orchis.
  - This can be a time for visiting, stories, songs, or snacks.
  - You can also relive **Kick-the-Can** or some other adventures in the dark from KLS days.
- ❖ **Free Time after 10:00 PM.**
  - In the Lodge, activities need to be QUIET, since it's a retreat center rule.
  - More spirited activities/discussions can happen at the Fire Ring or in Trillium or Showy Orchis.
- ❖ **Departure on Sunday.**
  - If you will be waiting for an outbound flight, **please sign up in Showy Orchis** by early on Sunday to meet others at a nearby location, for conversation and dinner. We'll look for you.

***Other important things to know...***

- ❖ ***Our Offering*** this year will be given to Yagaum Hospital, outside of Madang, an important medical center, that continues to serve the local community. It has been served by many missionary doctors and nurses over the years, and is where many of us were born. It is currently part of the PNG National Health Care System.
- ❖ **The Memorial Service** this year will be held on Saturday evening, during the 8:00 PM devotional time. Anyone wishing to remember a loved one is encouraged to fill out a Remembrance Card, and place it in the Remembrance basket by 12:30 pm on Saturday. As part of the Memorial Service, information shared on the Remembrance Cards will be read aloud. Anyone who wants to participate in the reading of the cards, or in reading scripture, is asked to contact Les Walck. A PowerPoint presentation of remembering loved ones will also be shown. This year the Memorial Service will be preceded by a time of musical prelude, including singing old, favorite hymns, as well as musical numbers by volunteers. Let Les know by Saturday noon if you are interested in offering some music for that time.

## THURSDAY October 5<sup>th</sup>

- 3:00 PM**      **Registration and “Welcome Packet” pick up.**      Cornell House  
*Settle in, explore the grounds. Maps are available.*  
*Ask for a guided tour if you want one.*  
*Enjoy Informal conversations.*      Cornell House & outdoors  
*Take in the displays, including family poster boards & artifacts.*  
    Ruth Youngdahl Lodge & Chapel
- 6:00 PM**      **Supper: serving ends at 6:20.**      Trillium Dining Room, Ruth Youngdahl Lodge
- 7:30 PM**      **Welcome Activities.**      Chapel
- “Stand Up – Sit Down;”** A Get-to-Know-You Activity.
- “Marimari Bilong God,”** taught by Mark Singh-Hueter and Dave Hueter.
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Marimari bilong God i salim Jisas i kam,<br/>         Bungim yumi ananit long diwai kros.<br/>             Yes, yes, yes, yes, yumi kam bung wantaim<br/>             Na kamap famili, famili, famili bilong God.<br/>         Yu no save long mi na mi no save long yu<br/>         Tasol nau Jisas i bungim yumi.<br/>             Yes, yes, yes, yes, yumi kam bung wantaim<br/>             Na kamap famili, famili, famili bilong God.</p> | <p><i>In mercy/love, God sent Jesus,<br/>         Gathering us underneath the wooden cross.</i><br/> <i>Yes, yes, yes, yes, we come and gather with each other<br/>         And become the family, family of God.</i><br/> <i>You don’t know me, and I don’t know you,<br/>         But Jesus gathered us together.</i><br/> <i>Yes, yes, yes, yes, we come and gather with each other<br/>         And become the family, family of God.</i></p> |
|--|---|
- “Our Photos – Our Treasures”** Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover.
- 8:30 PM**      **Snacks.**      Trillium Dining Room  
*Take in the displays, including family poster boards & artifacts.*  
    Ruth Youngdahl Lodge & Chapel
- Campfire, catching up.**      Fire Ring or Showy Orchis
- 10:00 PM**      Quiet time in the Lodge, per Retreat Center rules. More spirited activities or  
 discussions can happen at the Fire Ring or in Trillium or Showy Orchis.

## FRIDAY October 6<sup>th</sup>

*Note: A beverage bar is available any time (coffee, flavored syrups, teas, and muliwara, aka lemonade, in the Trillium dining room).*

- |                 |  |                      |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>7:00 AM</b>  | <b>Swim</b> with Maggie at the pool or <b>Walk</b> with Dianne from the front of Cornell House.  |                      |
| <b>7:30 AM</b>  | <b>Registration and “Welcome Packet” pick up.</b>  | Showy Orchis Room    |
| <b>8:00 AM</b>  | <b>Breakfast: <i>servicing ends at 8:20.</i></b>   | Trillium Dining Room |
| <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>Staff Welcome and Orientation to the Retreat Center.</b><br><b>Announcements: <i>Review of the day’s schedule.</i></b>  | Trillium Dining Room |
| <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Orientation</b> for new arrivals.   |                      |
| <b>9:30 AM</b>  | <b>Speaker: Ruth Van Reken.</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Privileges and Perils of Growing up as MKs.”</li> </ul> <p>Life is filled with paradoxes and for many of us, one of our biggest paradoxes is growing up as children of missionaries. So many blessings! Seeing the world! Understanding people who don't look like us can be among our best friends. Enjoying foods some might not dare to try! Even growing up in a close community can be a great joy. At the same time, the chronic cycles of mobility (ours and our friends’) also leads to many losses--often including the loss of these things we enjoyed so much! Sometimes the close community can feel more rigid than we would prefer! We will look at what these different gifts are, as well as the challenges that are part of our history and how they have formed us.</p> | Chapel               |
| <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Open time.</b>  |                      |
| <b>12 Noon</b>  | <b>Lunch: <i>servicing ends at 12:20.</i></b><br><i>Introduce new arrivals.</i>  | Trillium Dining Room |
| <b>1:30 PM</b>  | <b>Speaker: Ruth Van Reken.</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “How Secure/Insecure Attachment Patterns Relate to Our Past &amp; Present.”</li> </ul> <p>Continuing the discussion of the morning, we will look at how growing up among many worlds and places can affect us both as children and then as we emerge into adulthood. In time, our challenges often also become our gifts. Sometimes, however, there are also unseen impacts that can keep us from living in the freedom we desire. Together we'll consider what some of these things might be and how we can continue to growing throughout our lives.</p>   | Chapel               |
| <b>3:00 PM</b>  | <b>Break</b> with snacks available.  |                      |
| <b>3:30 PM</b>  | <b>Speakers: Jonathan &amp; Marian Frerichs.</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Going Bush: From the Kokoda Trail to Cold War Battlefields;<br/>On the Home Front: Letters Sent and Unsent.”</li> </ul> <p>When one has to leave home early, maybe a way to live with it is to begin to see the world around you as part of who you are. If one likes a bit of adventure there are opportunities to “go bush” almost anywhere, for curiosity, pleasure or work. This session will take us from the Kokoda Trail in PNG to far-flung battlefields of the Cold War. It will take in the home front too – in Lae, Geneva, Cyprus, and New York – where some letters were sent yet much went unwritten.</p>  | Chapel               |
| <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>Photo Opportunity: <i>Please be there; we want everyone included.</i></b>   | <i>over</i>          |



## SATURDAY October 7<sup>th</sup>

*Note: A beverage bar is available any time (coffee, flavored syrups, teas, and muliwara, aka lemonade, in the Trillium dining room)*

- 7:00 AM**      **Swim** with Maggie at the pool or      **Walk** with Dianne from the front of Cornell House.
- 7:30 AM**      **Registration and “Welcome Packet” pick up.**      *Please find Gary Schoonover.*
- 8:00 AM**      **Breakfast: serving ends at 8:20.**      Trillium Dining Room
- 8:30 AM**      **Announcements: Review of the day’s schedule.**      Trillium Dining Room
- 9:30 AM**      **Speaker: Dr. George Weiblen.**      Chapel
- “Preserving Nature in Post-Pandemic PNG: A Field Report.”
- Professor Weiblen will describe recent progress toward designating Wanang Conservation as a nationally protected, 20,000 acre nature reserve in the Middle Ramu region of Madang, PNG. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, international scientists were unable to visit Wanang for nearly two years. Weiblen will describe the sustained effort by local landowners to reserve a large tract of their forest estate in spite of the pandemic.
- 10:30 AM**      **Brief Break.**
- 10:45 AM**      **Speaker: Dr. George Weiblen (continued).**      Chapel
- Beetles, butterflies, and biodiversity of PNG: Treasures from the scientific collections of the Bell Museum collected by Professor Weiblen & his students in PNG.
- 11:30 AM**      **Open Time.**
- 12:30 PM**      **Lunch: serving ends at 12:50.**      Trillium Dining Room
- Please fill out Remembrance Cards, and place them in the Remembrance basket by 12:30 pm today.*
- 1:30 PM**      **Speaker: Dr. George Weiblen.**      Trillium Dining Room
- Liklik Toktok on traveling to PNG these days.
- Post-colonial PNG has earned a tough reputation as a dangerous and difficult place to visit, with a litany of travel warnings according to the US State Department. It is ironic, however, that the incidence of violent crime is actually rather comparable and US gun violence here is far worse. Patience and care are all that is needed to discover the real PNG – a warm & free society that is refreshingly more grounded in the natural world and the values of our shared humanity than the technological and monetary obsessions of the "developed" world today. Professor Weiblen will speak on today's options for visitors to have safe, healthy & rewarding experiences in PNG.
- 2:30 PM**      **Open Time.**      *over*

## SATURDAY October 7<sup>th</sup> (cont.)

- 3:00 PM**      **Speaker: Ruth Van Reken.**      Chapel
- Liklik Toktok on Strategies for Finding Hope and Healing for Ourselves and Others in a Sometimes Broken World.
- At times, there are special needs that can come from the particular situations of our lives or those we love. Political issues in a host country can create circumstances that feel (and often are) dangerous for a child. Sometimes a situation in a boarding school or mission community can leave scars that linger. Life may be going on seemingly well, but inside there is a place that longs for something a little bit more. What do we do then? We will have an interactive session to consider some possible answers to these questions.
- 3:00 PM**      **Other Options:**
- Enjoy pickle ball, bocce ball, volleyball, swimming, trails, etc.
  - Identify family photos, view *Wantok Place* continuous video, view PNG mementos and books, etc.
- 4:30 PM**      **Photo Opportunity:** *Please be there; we want everyone included.*
- 6:00 PM**      **Supper:** *servng ends at 6:20.*      Trillium Dining Room
- 7:00 PM**      **Pre-Worship Musical Prelude.**      Chapel
- With a hymn-sing of old favorites and a variety of volunteer musicians.
- 8:00 PM**      **Memorial Service:** *“Remembering Those We Love.”*      Chapel  
*Les Walck.*
- 9:00 PM**      **Campfire.** songs, snacks, and visiting.      Fire Ring or Showy Orchis  
*Take in the displays, including family poster boards & artifacts.*  
Ruth Youngdahl Lodge & Chapel
- 10:00 PM**      **Quiet time** in the Lodge, per Retreat Center rules. More spirited activities or discussions can happen at the Fire Ring or in Trillium or Showy Orchis.



# SUNDAY October 8<sup>th</sup>

*If you will be waiting for an outbound flight, **please sign up** to meet others at a nearby location, the Mall of America or elsewhere, for conversation and dinner. **Please sign-up in Showy Orchis early** in the day, so we know to look for you.*

**8:00 AM**      **Breakfast**, serving ends at 8:20.      Trillium Dining Room

**Before 10 AM** **Check-out:**

- \* strip beds, prop door open, and
- \* turn keys in at reception desk.

Ruth Youngdahl Lodge.

**10:00 AM**      **Worship:** Mark Singh-Hueter and David Hueter.      Chapel

Marimari bilong God i salim Jisas i kam,  
Bungim yumi ananit long diwai kros.

*In mercy/love, God sent Jesus,  
Gathering us underneath the wooden cross.*

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yumi kam bung wantaim  
Na kamap famili, famili, famili bilong God.

*Yes, yes, yes, yes, we come and gather with each other  
And become the family, family of God.*

Yu no save long mi na mi no save long yu  
Tasol nau Jisas i bungim yumi.

*You don't know me, and I don't know you,  
But Jesus gathered us together.*

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yumi kam bung wantaim  
Na kamap famili, famili, famili bilong God.

*Yes, yes, yes, yes, we come and gather with each other  
And become the family, family of God.*

*After worship, continue visiting, viewing displays, etc.*

Chapel or Showy Orchis

**12:00 PM**      **Lunch:** serving ends at 12:20.      Trillium Dining Room

**1:00–1:30 PM** **Closing remarks, Sharing and Farewells.**      Chapel

- **Facilitated** by Jonathan Frerichs.
- **Photos** of the reunion will be projected on the screen as we talk.
- **Announcements** including gathering later today.
  - Help is available for anyone needing ideas of things to do in Minnesota.
- **Final comments.**
- **Closing Song:** "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again."  
*in Tok Pisin and in English.*

**Departure by 2:00 PM**

- **Planning Group Wrap-up Meeting.**

TBD

*Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for supporting this reunion through funding for materials and supplies!*

## Ol Wantok i kam long Bung

Paula (Erickson) Bergs  
 Fred Brandt  
 Mark & Merrily Brandt  
 Miriam (Senff) Bunn  
 Mary (Brandt) Croft  
 Jonathan Davis  
 Loretta Davis  
 Philip Davis  
 Angela Frerichs  
 Jonathan & Marian Frerichs  
 Peter Frerichs,  
 Ruth (Imbrock) Frerichs  
 Connie (Mansur) Hassan  
 Kay (Edwards) Horntvedt  
 Daniel Heist  
 David Hueter  
 Tim & Carol Imbrock  
 Paul Johnson & Melanie Lewis  
 Becky (Jamieson) KenKnight

Randy & Christine (Sievert) Koch  
 Sieglinde Malmberg  
 Tanya (Senff) Mayer  
 Dawn (Daechsel) McLean  
 Keith & Christy (Mesplay) Moyer  
 Grace (Senff) Payne  
 Ron & Else (Helbig) Schardt  
 Darlene (Daechsel) Schnuelle  
 Gary & Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover  
 Mark Singh-Hueter  
 Donna (Daechsel) Smallwood  
 Dianne Tuff & Murdoch Johnson  
 Maggie Tuff  
 Lisa (Mesplay) Turvey  
 Ruth Van Reken, speaker  
 Martin Voss  
 Leslie Walck  
 Eric Walters  
 George Weiblen, speaker

*Thank you for coming!  
 We hope you have a wonderful time!  
 Blessings upon each of you!*

