



## 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.

# September 2023 Newsletter

## **GREETINGS WANTOKS**

The 2023 reunion is now a little over three weeks away.  
If you are thinking of attending, you are urged to register today.  
There is limited time and room remaining and this is the final call for registration.

### **In this email you'll find:**

- A reservation link with fees
  - the 45 wantoks attending
  - a reunion schedule and link
- Information on the reunion and speakers
  - Reunion highlights
  - Online participation
  - Book suggestion
- Meet members of our team - Mark Singh-Hueter and Paula (Schulz) Mitchell

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## **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

There is limited room - motel rooms are full but there are dorm beds available.  
Rates cover all program and facility costs.

### **For the full three-day reunion:**

Motel Rooms - full  
Dorm Boarders - \$365.00 and 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

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

[Request for Reservation Form](#)

At this time, we request payment with registration.

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*(Continued on next page)*

## 46 Wantoks Are Attending

Fred Brandt, Mark and Merrily Brandt, Mary (Brandt) Croft  
Miriam (Senff) Bunn, Tanya (Senff) Mayer, Grace (Senff) Payne  
Paula (Erickson) Berg  
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  
Kaye (Edwards) Horntvedt  
David Hueter, Mark Singh-Hueter  
Randy and Christine (Sievert) Koch  
Sieglinde Malmberg  
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

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## 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/>

**Daily Schedule Highlights**  
(Link to the full schedule: <https://pngklssplc.org>)

### Thursday

3 pm - arrival  
6 pm dinner  
7:30 pm social activity

### Friday

8 am breakfast (each day)  
9:30 am Ruth Van Reken  
12 noon lunch (each day)  
1:30 pm Ruth Van Reken

3:30 pm Jonathan and Marian Frerichs

6 pm dinner (each day)

7:30 pm Zoom with George Weiblen and associate, PNG Binatang Center, Madang

8:30 Holden Evening Prayer

### **Saturday**

9:30 am George Weiblen

1:30 and 3:00 Liklik toktoks

8 pm Memorial service

### **Sunday**

10 am Worship service

1 pm closing remarks and farewell

### **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. Ruth enjoys meeting all attendees - so plan on chatting with her during a meal or open time.

**George Weiblen** - is presently working in PNG - the first time since COVID. He will be returning shortly before the reunion and will give us an up-to-date report on his research and the country.

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**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](#)

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We are grateful for the assistance provided by Thrivent.

Their support has helped with printing, supplies, and gifts.

Thanks Thrivent. Live Generously.

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### **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](mailto:lwalck748@gmail.com)

**The PowerPoint slide will look something like this:**

***Remembering Loved Ones***

 Circuit Missionary,  
*Nobonob, 1946-1951*  
Teacher, *Baitabag, Amron, 1952-1964*  
“New Guinea Lutheran” editor,  
*Nagada, 1965-1972*

***Rev. Alfred Walck***  
***1921 - 2017***



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## 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!

Attend one or all of these!

- 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](#)



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## "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.

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## ***Meet Members of Our Planning Team***

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

### ***MARK SINGH-HUETER***



First photo: family picture from KLS. Not sure what I'm doing - but Dave seems amused.

Second photo: a current screenshot from me preaching an online sermon.

1. Where do you live? I live in Telford, a small town about 20 miles north of Philadelphia.
2. What kind of work did you do? I am a parish pastor, currently serving a church north of Philadelphia. (After university, I served four years in the US Air Force, then studied to become a pastor.)
3. What did your parents do? My father served as a missionary at Bongu, and then district missionary 20 miles up the coast at Madang. My mother was a nurse, and out at Bongu she regularly had a long line of people to treat each day. She was also a gifted musician, accompanying worship services, as well as the Madang Amateur Theatrical Society and local musicians.
4. What schools did you attend? I attended KLS for one term of 4th grade in 1970 (before we moved to town) and then 7th grade, then attended Concordia Memorial College in Toowoomba for 8-12th Grades. I did attend school in the USA on two furloughs for 2nd grade in Pittsburgh and 11th grade in Wilmar, Minnesota.

When we moved to USA I got my BA from Capital University with a math major, and after 4 years in the Air Force, got my M/Div at Trinity Seminary. Both schools are in Columbus, Ohio.

5. What is your role on the team? I host zooms, edit and produce the videos, and work with techie and online stuff. I also lead the Sunday worship service.
6. Share something that had a big impact on your life. High school in Australia. I liked some parts, but most was at times oppressive, restrictive and hard. But I learned discipline, I got a superior education, the structure was good for my ADD (which was not diagnosed until much later), I got to try out and play lots of sports, and I grew in faith, including experiencing a call to ordained ministry. Facebook has allowed me to connect with some of my mates from back then.

## PAULA (SCHULZ) MITCHELL



First photo - on the Maid of the Mist, Niagra Falls. I am second from left.

Second photo - celebrating my birthday in 2021.

1. Where do you live? Tom and I live in Sugar Grove, West Virginia.
2. What kind of work did you do? After attaining my Elementary Education degree, I married Tom Mitchell. I served in the capacity of teaching 2nd and 4-6th grades for 39 years. Since my retirement, I have been very busy...reading to classes and tutoring 2 days a week in school; judge quilt shows and school fairs; President of the Nursing Home Auxiliary; Secretary for the Lions Club (with 3 fundraisers); Secretary of the Historical Society; instrumental in 19 miles of Adopt a Highway trash pickup; organist for church and holding offices on Council, as well as being on one of the Lutheran Synod committees; an avid gardener which requires lots of canning and freezing, and enjoyment in the landscaping projects; love to travel; crafts; have written a book titled, "Indeed and Double" and am working on my next book titled, "Sugar Grove: A Little Piece of Heaven"; and enjoy visits from friends with entertainment included. We love to visit the Outer Banks, North Carolina for rest and relaxation.
3. What did your parents do? On their first tour of mission work, dad and mom were stationed at Bongu, followed with being at Narer, Karkar Island on the next 'stint'. They were then at Amron and ended their time at Lae where dad was Acting President when Dr Kuder left on furlough. They both taught school to the 'natives' with dad doing a weekly sermon preparation for the pastors on the island. They taught sewing lessons to the women, as well as hygiene through clinics. A trade store was operable where management was taught to the natives. Each Sunday, they would attend a church and dad made 'his rounds' monthly. They were a team. At Christmas, boxes of oranges, grapefruit, and lemons were sent to the Supply store in Madang to be sent to the missionaries. Narer was a station that included mentoring new missionaries.
4. What schools did you attend?

Mom taught me 1st grade by way of radio (from Sydney, Australia).

My 2nd grade was in the US (furlough)

3-7 grades at KLS

8-9th at St Peters (10th in the US)

11-12th at St Peters

College at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia where I received my B.S.

5. What is your role on the team? Commenting and advising wherever needed, offering to help out on projects for the reunion...and short-sheeting beds as a continued tradition at the reunions.

6. Share something that had a big impact on your life. There were lots of things that impacted my life. Boarding school certainly brought its own flavor of discipline, organization, sports, etc. But I think my utmost appreciation of my parents, family, and friends was the greatest impact. To this day, my 'family from school days' often brings pleasant memories. I am in awe that we all survived unscathed!

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## 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](mailto: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!**

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### 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