



Wisconsin Gossellers October 2018 Newsletter

Westend Gossingers send Many Greetings!

Dear Friends,
Persons in the Westend Gossingers were deeply touched by the greeting card and messages sent. Dany Ziebell Kloth was in tears and had to grab a tissue. One person after another, too many to remember, asked me to send greetings.

Amazingly Merlin and Denise Blaisdell were at the practice of the Westend Gossingers on Wednesday. They had come to Europe as a gift to themselves on their 50th wedding anniversary. Denise took a photo of those gathered for rehearsal, with me holding the greeting card from the Wisconsin Gossellers. (seen below)

Also, Hanns-Peter would like to be kept informed of your German trip as it unfolds. He mentioned the possibility of (some of) the Westend Gossingers traveling west to meet up with the Gossellers. Perhaps a pipe dream, but an interesting possibility.

We have had a wonderful two weeks in Eberswalde, visiting members of the choir and congregation. Now we are off to Prague.

Grace and Peace from Fritz West

Happy 50th Anniversary! Merlin and Denise Blaisdell





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Two more pictures of the Singing Windows of Tuskegee University

Thanks to Luke and Lori Bocher for sharing these beautiful pictures of the stained-glass windows



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Leadership Team Explained

The Gossellers' Leadership Team (LT) meets electronically (via Google Hangout) at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month. We also meet face-to-face several times a year. Basically, the LT functions like a local congregation's Council/Cabinet. As such, we...

Plan/lead trips & workshops. This always starts by discerning how each opportunity connects to the Gossellers' mission and goals. Insights from hosts, choir members, past experiences, and Anina Travel help us craft an itinerary with space for rest, fellowship, and spontaneous "Spirit sightings."

Nurture relationships. This includes responding to inquiries, communicating with partners, keeping the WI Conference UCC informed, and reaching out to potential collaborators such as the [Lord'n'Joy](#) and [Gospel & More](#) choirs. In addition, we often lead devotions, encourage fellowship, and hold space for God's still-speaking voice.

Manage finances. The Gossellers have both checking and savings accounts, and maintain 501c3 status through the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Free-will offerings and annual dues help us compensate professional musicians, purchase music & supplies, offer travel scholarships, and steward previously-raised funds.

Encourage recruitment. Most new Gossellers tell us they joined the choir after receiving a personal invitation. So while the LT creates & sends concert flyers and general invitations, **we need you to spread the word.**

Keep y'all informed! Monthly newsletters, the website and Facebook updates don't write themselves! To date, most content has come from the LT; we'd love to see that change! **Please send contributions to Norm and/or Alicia.**

--Alicia Gardner, Donna Leet (Treasurer), Malena Koplin, Lori Bocher, Luke Bocher, Natalie Hinze, Bonnie, Spindler, Martin Ulrich (musical director), David Wernecke & Kimberly Redding (Chair)

What are the benefits of singing?

The following is an excerpt from Norwegian Singers Association of America Newsletter called Sanger-Hilsen (compliments of Rolf Killingstad)

Why do we love singing in a Norwegian chorus? Singing in a chorus has many benefits. Science has recently confirmed some of the benefits of singing as follows;

1. Singing releases endorphins which make us feel good (also released with chocolate consumption)
2. Lowers cortisol levels and boosts the immune system
3. Reduces stress
4. Releases oxytocin giving a sense of fulfillment
5. May increase life expectancy

Other benefits to singing in our men's choruses :

1. May help reduce snoring
2. A place to pick up new jokes
3. Helps lurn purdy gud english
4. Learn how to watch the director sometimes
5. Don't need to match outfits for singing engagements
6. When asked if you've been good you can say: "Ya, I'ma Choir Boy."

In all honesty, singing in our choruses is a blessing. As you approach a new singing season sing your hearts out. Share your gifts and you will be rewarded.

Paul Larson, NSAA president





Mission Statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music

Vision Statement: A world where God's love triumphs over that which divides us.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lunch by</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Sat Nov 10 Sun Nov 11	10am-3pm 10:15am	Hope UCC 8950 Alpine Rd, Fremont, WI 54940	Sopranos	Rehearsal on saturday and concert during worship service on sunday Also leadership team meeting saturday
Sat Dec 8th	10am-3pm	Olivet UCC 313 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925	Altos	Rehearsal
Sat Jan 12th	10am-3pm	Cedar Ridge 113 Cedar Ridge Dr West Bend WI 53095	Cedar Ridge	Rehearsal & Concert
Sat Feb 9th	10am-3pm	New London?	Men	Rehearsal
Sat Mar 9th	10am-3pm	Hope UCC ? 8950 Alpine Rd, Fremont, WI 54940	Sopranos	This is the 2nd option for concert in Fremont in case the november concert doesnt work
Sat Apr 6	10am-3pm	Conf/Assoc Mtg in Wis Dells?	?	Rehearsal & Concert

? = still tentative and could change. Stay tuned!

*There's NO June 2019 Annual Mtg @ Green Lake because General Synod is in Milwaukee June 21-25. We're working on other opportunities, including a Summer '19 trip to Hesse/Rhineland (Germany).

DDHS Teacher Nick Stark Wins 2018 Music Award!

DDHS Teacher Nick Stark has been chosen as the recipient of the 2018 Award for Excellence in Music Education.

The Madison Symphony Orchestra and Ward-Brodts Music have teamed together to present the annual Award for Excellence in Music Education. This award recognizes an outstanding music educator who both advocates for the success of students and champions in-school music education. The recipient receives a commemorative plaque and a monetary award, which is presented in a ceremony at the recipient's school.

Congratulations Nick!



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