

## From the “Greatest Generation,” (1901-1924) those born in the time of “The Great War” and the Spanish Flu Epidemic (yes, there are still a few of them around):

### International Affairs

**James Lovelock**, 103. British environmental scientist. He began his work at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, researching the effect of temperature on living organisms. In the 1960s he worked at JPL for NASA on the moon and Mars programs. In the 1970s he developed the Gaia theory that the earth is a living organism and is threatened by human activity. He published his last book, *Novacene*, in 2019 when was 100. By the way, in 2004 he wrote that “Opposition to nuclear energy is based on irrational fear fed by Hollywood-style fiction.... Nuclear energy from its start in 1952 has proved to be safest of all energy sources.”

**Benjamin Ferencz**, 103. Last surviving prosecutor at the Nuremberg war trials. A corporal in the US Army in 1945 who had previously researched war crimes for a professor at Harvard, he was assigned to investigate war crimes at the death camps in Buchenwald, Mauthausen and Dachau. He prosecuted the largest murder trial in history, against the Einsatzgruppen who ran the death camps. Later in his life, he became an advocate for world peace and an international criminal court.

**Andree Geulen**, 100. Belgian teacher at a girls’ school, she helped hide 300-400 Jewish children from the Nazis, and after the war helped to reunite with their parents those who could. She was memorialized at Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations. She was the last survivor of 12 women who saved more than 3,000 children in Belgium.

**Sophie Freud**, 97. Last surviving grandchild of Sigmund Freud, she criticized psychoanalysis as “narcissistic indulgence” and described her grandfather’s work as “brilliant but questionable.” She was 14 when the Nazis took over Austria, and while her father and brother fled to London Sophie and her mother fled first to Paris, followed by a 400-mile bicycle trip to the French Riviera, a cruise to Morocco, a flight to Portugal and finally a third-class crossing to the United States. She initially applied to Hunter College, but was denied because she was not yet a citizen. She was accepted at Radcliffe, and earned her doctorate in Social Welfare from Brandeis. She taught psychology and sociopsychology at Simmons University and led the Human Behavior program there. She rode a red motorbike to campus until she begrudgingly relinquished it to a student when she was in her late 70s. Shortly before she died, she wrote “I shall think of the sorrow of my children, and of the sorrow of my grandchildren for their children, in this harsh new world, and I will leave the world with relief thinking of all that will have been spared me.”

**Jiang Zemin**, 96. First of China’s “third generation” of leaders, he rose from chair of Singapore’s Communist Party to chair the National Party after Tiananmen Square. He was the first Premier to come to power through a peaceful transition, and the first who did not have a military background. He led China’s transition from state-run business to private entrepreneurship. He was also ruthless in suppressing dissent, and led the suppression of the Falun Gong movement.

### National Affairs

**Esther Cooper Jackson, 105.** Civil rights leader, she helped establish the Southern Negro Youth Conference (the predecessor to SNCC) and was longtime editor of *Freedomways* magazine.

**Samuel Sandoval, 98.** One of the last of the Navajo Code Talkers who used their native language to talk in code in World War II to evade Japanese eavesdropping.

**Hershel “Woody” Williams, 98.** Last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II. He fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

**Bradford Freeman, 97.** Last survivor of the US Army unit nicknamed “The Band of Brothers.”

### Writers

**Sterling Lord, 102.** While not a writer himself, he was the literary agent for many of the century’s best-known writers, including Jack Kerouac, Amiri Baraka, Ken Kesey, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Stan & Jan Berenstain, Secretary Robert McNamara, Judge John Sirika, and Jaqueline Kennedy Onasis.

### Actors & Film

**Larry Storch, 99.** Rubber-faced comic, best known for his role as Cpl. Agarn on the TV series *F-Troop*.

### Music & Art

**Ned Rorem, 99.** Pulitzer and Grammy award winning composer of classical music, best known for his art songs and operas. He also published a number of memoirs, which have been described as having the same hallmarks as his music: “indirection, instinctive grace, intellectual aplomb, and a lyrical line.”

### Sports

### Regional

**Polly Mann, 103.** Co-founder of Women Against Military Madness, and active in protest well into her 90s. Her co-founder, Marianne Hamilton, recalled, “The smartest thing anyone ever thought of and carried through with was a new name for war: military madness.”

**Col. Harold Brown, 98.** One of the last of the Tuskegee Airmen, he grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from North High. After retiring from the Air Force in 1965 at the age of 41, he attended Ohio State University and earned a mathematics degree and a Doctorate in Education and went on to serve as Vice President at Columbus State Community College in Ohio.

### Local

*Schools—MSU*

**Dan Duffy, 100.** Director of Housing at Mankato State College in the 1960s.

### UUFM Members, Relatives & Friends

**Alda M. Wicklund, 98.** Deb Fitzloff’s aunt.

## From the “Silent Generation,” (1925-1945) those who were born in the Great Depression and the Second World War:

### International Affairs

**Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 Commonwealth Realms**, 96. Second-longest reigning monarch in history (but Louis XIV had a head start—he was 4 when he began his reign). Touring southern Africa with her parents on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, she declared "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." She kept her word.

**Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI**, 95. A professor of theology by training, he was appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Dean of the College of Cardinals in his 50s, where he was known for his conservative defense of Catholic tradition. Elected Pope at age 78, he served 8 years before retiring—the first to do so in 600 years.

**Adolfo Kaminsky**, 97. As a teenager who had worked as a clothes-dyer, the French Resistance recruited him to forge documents to prevent Jews from being deported to death camps. One time, he made 3 separate documents for 300 children in 3 days—and he did it with almost no sleep. “The math was simple,” he said. “In one hour, I made 30 fake documents. If I slept for one hour, 30 people would die.” He went on to forge documents (for no pay) for Algerians resisting France and Spaniards resisting Franco, to Latin American revolutionaries and anti-apartheid activists in South Africa, and US deserters during the VietNam War.

**Mikhail Gorbachev**, 91. Last President of the Soviet Union. His reforms, known as *perestroika* and *glasnost*, led to the easing of Cold War tensions and the nuclear disarmament treaty with the United States. They also led to the downfall of the Soviet Union, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, and Boris Yeltsin’s defeating him for the presidency of Russia.

**Pervez Musharraf**, 79. Pakistani army general who led a bloodless coup in 1999 and ruled for the next 9 years. An ally of the West, he sided with Washington against the Taliban which fueled violent terrorist groups in Pakistan and led to his eventual ouster. He died in exile in Dubai.

**David Trimble**, 77. Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party from 1995 to 2005, he became a key architect of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement reversing his long-held opposition to negotiating with the Irish Republican Army-linked party Sinn Fein. He shared the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

### National Affairs

**Newton Minnow**, 97. Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, he was famous for his description of commercial television as a “vast wasteland.”

**Virginia Norwood**, 96. “Mother of Landsat,” the earth-imaging satellite system. She graduated from MIT in 1947 in mathematical physics, she worked first for the Army Signal Corps and then, for 36 years for Hughes Aircraft where she specialized in antenna design, communications links, optics and the Landsat scanners.

**Ann Turner Cook, 95.** The Gerber baby. Her neighbor, Dorothy Hope Smith, submitted a charcoal sketch to a contest for the face of the new baby food company. She said the sketch was preliminary, and she would finish it if they liked it. But the judges loved it just as it was, and for 90 years it was the company's logo. Ms. Cook, an elementary school teacher, kept her identity secret until she was in her 50s—she didn't want to distract her students. In her retirement, she wrote mystery novels.

**Paul Ellwood, 95.** A professor of pediatric neurology at the University of Minnesota and the Sister Kenny Institute, he left the practice of medicine to found InterStudy, a health policy thinktank. There he took the Kaiser model of prepaid health plans and developed it into the HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) model which influenced national health care policy ever since.

**Gene Basset, 95.** Artist and political cartoonist for the Scripps Howard newspaper syndicate. He also published in the Mankato FreePress.

**Gordon Moore, 94.** Co-founder of Intel, the microchip manufacturer. He was also the author of "Moore's Law," which observes that the number of transistors (in other words, the processing power) in an integrated circuit doubles about every two years.

**Barbara Walters, 93.** Known for her interviewing ability and popularity with viewers, she appeared as a host of numerous television programs, including *Today*, the *ABC Evening News*, *20/20*, and *The View*. Throughout her career as a working journalist from 1951 until her retirement in 2015, she paved the way for the many women who came up behind her.

**James McDivitt, 93.** He didn't have money for college, so he worked for a year before going to community college in Kalamazoo, MI. A year later, at the start of the Korean War, he joined the Air Force and flew 145 combat missions. He commanded the 1968 Gemini 4 mission when he walked in space with Ed White, and the Apollo 9 mission which went to the moon. He passed on a chance to walk on the moon to become program manager for five Apollo missions.

**John Rensenbrink, 93.** Maine political scientist and conservationist who co-founded the Green Party.

**Moon Landrieu, 92.** He integrated New Orleans city government as mayor in the '70s and served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under Jimmy Carter. His daughter, Mary, was a three-term Senator from Louisiana and his son, Mitch, was mayor of New Orleans.

**Carl Croneberg, 92.** Linguist who helped write the first comprehensive dictionary of American Sign Language and carried out research that established the idea of "Deaf Culture." He specialized in regional and subcultural dialects in the use of sign language. He was educated and then taught at Gallaudet University for his entire career.

**Frank Drake, 92.** Astronomer at UC Santa Cruz, he helped establish SETI—the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and developed the Drake equation which is still used to estimate the number of advanced civilizations in the galaxy.

**Clifford Alexander, 88.** First African-American Secretary of the Army, he paved the way for others who came after him.

**Dave Durenberger**, 88. US Senator from Minnesota for 17 years, filling Hubert Humphrey's seat upon his death. In the Senate, Durenberger led Reagan's New Federalism efforts and came to be known for his expertise on national health policy, a role he maintained after leaving the Senate. In 2005 he broke with the Republican Party over Bush's health care policies and later supported Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in their presidential bids.

**Tony Earl**, 86. Wisconsin governor in the early '80s, he brought the State through a \$1 billion budget deficit and 12% unemployment rate, and championed environmental, education, and equal rights policies. He was defeated by Tommy Thompson over his defense of gay and lesbian rights. Later in life, he served ten years on the Board of Common Cause Wisconsin.

**Mark Shields**, 85. Early in life, he helped manage state and local political campaigns in 38 states, including national campaigns for William Proxmire, Robert Kennedy, Edmund Muskie, Morris Udall, and Sargent Shriver. He then joined the editorial desk at the *Washington Post*. For more than 30 years he was a regular commentator on PBS NewsHour. He was known for his humor, his kindness, his generosity, and his optimism.

**E. Bryant Crutchfield**, 85. A paper-company executive who designed the Trapper-Keeper, a must-have for school kids in the 80s and 90s (in the days of paper, before tablets and phones were used to organize our lives).

**Herman Daly**, 84. Father of Ecological Economics and theorist of Sustainable Development, and senior economist at the World Bank. He is best known for his 1973 book, *Toward a Steady-State Economy*.

**Pat Schroeder**, 82. For 24 years, she represented Colorado in the US House. She was an advocate for women and families, and helped author the Family and Medical Leave Act. Known for her sharp wit, when she was criticized for running for Congress when she had small children she shot back, "I have a brain and a uterus and I use both."

## Writers

**Gerald Stern**, 97. Lyrical poet in the tradition of Whitman, he won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, among others.

**David McCullough**, 89. Historian who earned two Pulitzers, a National Book Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work. He is best known for his biographies of Harry Truman and of John Adams and for the script for Ken Burns' documentary on the Civil War.

**Tim Giago**, 88. A journalist who covered Native American affairs for 40 years. In 1981 he and his wife founded *The Lakota Times* (later renamed *Indian Country Today*), the first Native American newspaper in the country, with a \$4,000 bank loan with his cousin's old Ford sedan as collateral. He had been reporting for the *Rapid City Journal* when he asked to cover tribal stories on his beat. The editor told him that he would not be able to be objective in his reporting. Giago replied, "All of your reporters are white. Are they objective when covering the white community?" He also published four books.

**Raymond Briggs**, 88. English illustrator, cartoonist, graphic novelist and author. He won two Kate Greenway medals for his children's books, and is best known for *The Snowman*, a book without words, which has been turned into a beloved TV film at Christmas time.

**Kenzaburo Oe**, 88. Nobel winner for his fables of Japanese life.

**Rabbi Harold Kushner**, 88. He published 14 books on popular theology, including *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*.

**Dusan (Charles) Simic**, 84. Serbian-American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and US Poet Laureate. He is best known for his collection of poems, *The World Doesn't End*.

**Howard Mohr**, 83. Professor of English at Southwest Minnesota State, writer for "A Prairie Home Companion," and author of *How to Talk Minnesotan*. He explained the Minnesota good-bye, the art of waving, the intricacies of hotdish and the difference between "not too bad a deal" and "a heckuva deal." You betcha.

**Bernard Shaw**, 82. He left network TV in 1980 to anchor the start-up 24-hour cable-news network, CNN, and held it for the next 21 years. He was known for his calm, cool demeanor (his models were Edward R Murrow and Walter Cronkite) and tough questions and reporting. He reported from Tiananmen Square and was the only US journalist to provide live coverage of the Persian Gulf War.

**Thomas Cahill**, 82. As a Jesuit seminarian, he earned his first degree in Greek and Latin and classical literature and philosophy. Deciding against ordination, he earned a Master's in Film and Dramatic Literature. He wrote the popular history, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*—the manuscript was rejected by 5 publishers before Doubleday picked it up. It eventually sold 2 million copies. It was the first of a projected 7-volume series, "The Hinges of History." He finished six of the volumes.

**Barbara Ehrenreich**, 81. Although she earned a PhD in immunology, she was an author, activist, and "myth-buster." She challenged conventional thinking about class, religion, and even the American Dream in books like *Nickel and Dimed*, *Bait and Switch*, and *Bright-Sided*. She wrote that "Positive thinking has made itself useful as an apology for the crueler aspects of the market economy. If optimism is the key to material success, and if you can achieve an optimistic outlook through the discipline of positive thinking, then there is no excuse for failure. The flip side of positivity is thus a harsh insistence on personal responsibility."

### Actors & Film

**Angela Lansbury**, 96. Irish-British and American actress and singer who played various roles across film, stage, and television. Her career spanned eight decades, and she was one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema. She received six Tony Awards (including a Lifetime Achievement Award), six Golden Globe Awards, a Laurence Olivier Award, and the Academy Honorary Award, and was nominated for three Academy Awards, eighteen Primetime Emmy Awards, and a Grammy Award. Her first film roles were in *Gaslight* (1944), *National Velvet* (1944), and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1945). She had a leading role in *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962) and *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (1971), and then starred and produced the TV series,

*Murder She Wrote*. She did voice work for the animated films *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) and *Anastasia* (1997), and her last film role was *Glass Onion* in 2022.

**Eirini Lelekou (Irene Pappas)**, 96. Greek actress and singer, she starred in more than 70 films over a span of 50 years, including “The Guns of Navarone,” “Zorba the Greek,” “Z,” “The Trojan Women,” “Iphigenia,” “Antigone,” and “Electra.”

**Luigia (Gina) Lollobrigida**, 95. Italian actress, called “the world’s most beautiful woman” and one of the last from Hollywood’s “Golden Era,” she starred in films both in the US and in Italy and France. Later in life she made a career as a photojournalist, including scoring an exclusive interview with Fidel Castro. Toward the end of her life, she used her wealth to support various causes, including selling her jewels to fund stem-cell research.

**Jean-Louis Trintignant**, 91. French actor whose career spanned 70 years and who worked with almost every major European director. His films include Roger Vadim’s *And God Created Woman*, Claude Lelouche’s *A Man and a Woman*, Sergio Corbuchi’s *The Great Silence*, Robbe-Grillet’s *The Man Who Lies*, Costa-Gavras’s *Z*, Eric Rohmer’s *My Night at Maud’s*, Bertolucci’s *The Conformist*, Kieslowski’s *Three Colours: Red*, Jean-Pierre Jeunet’s *The City of Lost Children*, and Michael Haneke’s *Amour*.

**Jean-Luc Godard**, 91. French “New Wave” director who revolutionized popular cinema in 1960 with his classic “Breathless.”

**Bob McGrath**, 90. Actor, musician, children’s author, he was a founding cast member of Sesame Street playing the friendly neighbor Bob Johnson and played that role for almost five decades. He also sang in the ‘60s series, “Sing Along with Mitch.”

**Mark Russell**, 90. Political comedian and satirist, who had a quarterly half-hour special on PBS for 30 years. When asked if he used writers for his material, he quipped: “Sure, 100 in the Senate and 435 in the House.”

**Nichelle Nichols**, 89. Lieutenant Uhura, fourth in command of the Starship Enterprise, on TV and film. She broke TV barriers portraying a Black woman in a position of authority. A singer/dancer (she sang for Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton and played in *Porgy and Bess* in New York), she initially saw *Star Trek* as a stepping stone to Broadway. But then she was introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who told her he was a fan and she could not leave the show because of her influence as a role model for so many children. She and William Shatner also shared the first interracial kiss portrayed on television in one of the last segments of the series. She also volunteered with NASA in a special project to recruit minorities and women into the space agency.

**Barrie Humphries**, 89. Australian comedian, actor, and author, he was the voice of Bruce the Shark in *Finding Nemo* and portrayed the Great Goblin in *The Hobbit*. But he found much more fame as Dame Edna Everage, described by the *New York Times* as “a stiletto-heeled, stiletto-tongued persona who might well have been the spawn of a ménage à quatre involving Oscar Wilde, Salvador Dalí, Auntie Mame and Miss Piggy.” When asked if he explained to his children why he dressed as a woman, he replied “No more than when I play Hamlet I explain to them that I don’t speak Danish.”

**Bob Rafelson**, 89. He directed, among other films, *Easy Rider*, *Five Easy Pieces* and *The Last Picture Show*, all of which were all chosen for inclusion in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry. He was also one of the creators of the pop group and TV series "The Monkees."

**(Estelle) Louise Fletcher**, 88. American actress best known for her role as Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, for which she won an Academy Award. She also appeared regularly in *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* as the Bajoran religious leader, Kai Adami and she won Emmies for her role in the TV series *Picket Fences* and in *Joan of Arcadia*. She was born to two deaf parents, and learned to speak from one of her aunts.

**Chaim Topol**, 87. Israeli actor, best known for his portrayal on film and stage as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**Patrick Henry "Adam" Wade**, 87. In college on a basketball scholarship, he dropped out after 3 years to work as a lab tech for Dr. Jonas Salk who encouraged him to pursue his dream in music. In 1961, he had three consecutive Top 10 hits in a single year ("Take Good Care of Her", "The Writing on the Wall" and "As if I Didn't Know"). He also appeared in scores of films, plays and TV productions, and in 1975 became the first Black host of a network television game show, "Musical Chairs." The show was cancelled after 5 months and got a lot of hate mail, including a letter from a man "saying he didn't want his wife sitting at home watching the Black guy hand out the money and the smarts." 40 years after dropping out of college, he earned a bachelor's degree from Lehman College in the Bronx and a master's in theater history and criticism from Brooklyn College, and taught speech and theater at Long Island University in New Jersey.

**Paul Sorvino**, 83. Actor, opera singer, and sculptor. He started acting as a teenager and had his Actor's Equity card by age 24, but his first break (in "That Championship Season" on Broadway) didn't come until he was 31. "Most of the time I was just another out-of-work actor who couldn't get arrested," he quipped. He eventually landed movie roles, including as Henry Kissinger (complete with German accent) in Oliver Stone's "Nixon" and Fulgencio Capulet in Baz Luhrmann's "Romeo and Juliet," but he is best known for his role as Paulie Cicero in "Goodfellas." He said that, as he was preparing for the role, he looked in the mirror one day as he was adjusting his tie and saw "that lethal Paulie look.... I knew at that moment I had embraced my inner mob boss."

**Roger Mosley**, 83. Actor and director, he is best known for his role as helicopter pilot TC Calvin on *Magnum PI*.

**Raquel Welch**, 82. Actress on screen, stage and TV. Initially cast for her looks, she worked hard at her craft and insisted on portraying strong female characters. She won a Golden Globe Award for her performance in *The Three Musketeers* and was nominated for her role in the TV film *Right to Die*.

**James Caan**, 82. Actor, best known for his roles in *The Godfather* and *Elf*.

**Wolfgang Petersen**, 81. Film director and producer. Among others, he directed "Das Boot," "in the Line of Fire," "Air Force One," and "The Perfect Storm."

**Jerry Springer**, 79. Broadcaster, journalist, actor, producer, lawyer, and politician, for 27 years the star of the "Jerry Springer Show," considered one of the first "trash TV" shows. But before that, he



was an attorney who got involved in politics for the Robert Kennedy presidential campaign in 1968, and then served on the city council and as mayor of Cincinnati, OH. After that he became a local news anchor and won several regional Emmies for news commentary.

**Richard Belzer**, 78. Comedian and actor, for 23 years he portrayed the character John Munch on various NBC crime dramas. He was also a conspiracy theorist, publishing 5 books on various theories.

**Tony Dow**, 77. American actor, film producer, director and sculptor. For six seasons he portrayed Wally Cleaver in the television sitcom *Leave It to Beaver*.

## Music & Art

**Harry Belafonte**, 96. Singer, actor, civil rights activist. He is one of 12 who have earned an EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony). He was the first Black male leading man on film (in *Carmen Jones* and *Island in the Sun*, among other films) and the first to record an album that sold a million copies. He was best known for calypso music ("Day-O," "Mama Look at Bubu," "Jump in the Line," "Jamaica Farewell," and "Mary's Boy Child"), although he recorded blues, folk, gospel, show tunes, American standards, and international music. He was instrumental in introducing young talent, including Miriam Makeba from South Africa, Nana Mouskouri from Greece, and a young harmonica player named Bob Dylan. He helped organize the "We Are the World" recording and performed at the LiveAid Concert that same year. He was a close friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. and an advocate for civil rights, peace, HIV/AIDS and other humanitarian causes.

**Burt Bacharach**, 94. Composer and songwriter, he is considered one of the most influential pop composers of his time, and he won 6 Grammy Awards, 3 Academy Awards, and 1 Emmy. His jazz-influenced work is known for its unusual chord progressions and time-signature changes. His hits include "This Guy's in Love with You" (Herb Alpert, 1968), "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" (Thomas, 1969), "(They Long to Be) Close to You" (the Carpenters, 1970), "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)" (Christopher Cross, 1981), "That's What Friends Are For" (Warwick, 1986), and "On My Own" (Carole Bayer Sager, 1986).

**Claes Oldenburg**, 93. Sculptor known for his monumental sculptures of everyday objects, including a steel clothespin in Philadelphia's Centre Square; a 20-ton baseball bat in front of Chicago's Social Security Administration building; a 38-foot-tall flashlight at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas; and a giant typewriter eraser at the National Sculpture Court in DC. And the Spoon Bridge and Cherry at the Walker Art Center.

**Mary Quant**, 93. "Mother of the Miniskirt," she brought high fashion to mass marketing, and paired her short skirts with tights and the "London Bob" hairstyle that set the style for the 60's generation of liberated young women.

**Ahmad Jamal**, 92. Jazz pianist and composer. Born Frederick Russell Jones, he converted to Islam and adopted a name from his ancestors in 1950. He was an early proponent of "cool jazz," emphasizing the space between notes rather than bebop's speed and complex improvisation. His best-known compositions include "Ahmad's Blues" and "New Rhumba," although he was also

known for playing standards like “Ponciana” and even the theme from M\*A\*S\*H. He received Lifetime Achievement Grammy, NEA Jazz Master, and Kennedy Center Living Jazz Legend awards.

**Loretta Lynn**, 90. The Coal Miner’s daughter, her career spanned 6 decades and 3 Grammys. She won the most awards of any female country recording artist, with 24 No. 1 hit singles and 11 number one albums. Her hits included "You Ain't Woman Enough (To Take My Man)", "Don't Come Home A-Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)", "One's on the Way", "Fist City", and "Coal Miner's Daughter".

**Jerry Lee Lewis**, 87. “The Killer,” as he was known, rock-n-roll’s “first great wild man” had a string of hits in the late 50’s, including "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Great Balls of Fire", "Breathless", and "High School Confidential". In the late 60s and 70s he turned to country music. He had a dozen gold records, 4 Grammys, and was inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame. His personal life was as wild as his music; he was married seven times, divorced four times.

**Sam Gooden**, 87. Soul singer, he was an original member of *The Impressions*. Although he continued to perform into 2022, he is best known for trading lines with lead singer Curtis Mayfield in the Impressions 1963 hit, “It’s Alright.”

**Joanna Simon**, 86 and **Lucy Simon**, 82. Daughters of the publishing magnate, Richard Simon, and sisters of Carly Simon, they died of cancer within a day of each other. Joanna had a career as an opera singer, and then as an Emmy-award winning journalist for her work as the arts correspondent on PBS NewsHour. Lucy started her music career as a duo with her sister Carly, and went on to a solo career composing and writing music. She was nominated for a Tony for her work on the Broadway musical, “The Secret Garden.”

**Gordon Lightfoot**, 84. Canadian folksinger whose hits included “Early Morning Rain,” “For Loving Me,” “If You Could Read My Mind,” and “Sundown.”

**Issay Miyake**, 84. Japanese fashion designer, known as “The Prince of Pleats” for his style which was heavily influenced by origami.

**Tina Turner**, 83. “Queen of Rock ‘n Roll,” she had 12 Grammys, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a Kennedy Center Award, and sold over 100 million records. Her songs included “Proud Mary,” “We Don’t Need Another Hero,” and “What’s Love Got to Do With It,” recorded when she made a comeback in her ‘40s after her much-publicized break-up with her abusive husband, Ike Turner. It made her the oldest female solo artist to make Billboard’s Hot 100. Having lived in Los Angeles, Cologne, London, and the French Riviera, in 1994 she settled into Switzerland near Zurich. In 2013 (at age 74) she became a Swiss citizen after passing a rigorous test on Swiss history and the German language. She also married her boyfriend of 27 years, Erwin Bach. Four years later, when she was living with kidney failure and considering assisted suicide, he donated one of his kidneys to her. In religion, she referred to herself as a “Buddhist Baptist” (her father was a Baptist deacon). She was a woman of many parts.

**David Crosby**, 81. Singer, songwriter, guitarist and member of The Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash (and, later, ...Young). Influenced by jazz, his folk styling played around with close harmonies and alternate tunings and inspired the “freak folk” movement of this century. He was also

notorious for his drug offenses, weapons charges, prison stints, and clashes with almost every bandmate he worked with.

**Barrett Strong**, 81. Singer songwriter for Motown. He wrote and recorded Motown's first hit single, "Money (That's What I Want)," and went on to co-write "I Heard It Through the Grapevine", "War", "Just My Imagination (Running Away with Me)", and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone".

**Lamont Dozier**, 81. Singer/songwriter, he composed and arranged much of the Motown Sound, including hits he co-wrote for Martha and the Vandellas, The Supremes, The Four Tops, and The Isley Brothers.

**Jim Seals**, 80. With fellow musician "Dash" Crofts on 1970s soft-rock hits "Summer Breeze," "Diamond Girl" and "We May Never Pass This Way Again."

**Christine McVie**, 79. Singer, songwriter, keyboardist and founding member of the British band, Fleetwood Mac.

**Judith Durham**, 79. Lead vocalist for the Australian folk-pop band, The Seekers. Their hits included "Georgy Girl" and "I'll Never Find Another You."

**Walter "Wolfman" Washington**, 79. R&B Guitarist, he was a cornerstone of New Orleans nightlife and leader of The Roadmasters. He was known for his style and tone, and for the wolf howl with which he punctuated his playing.

**Jeff Beck**, 78. Virtuoso rock guitarist, he began with The Yardbirds and then went off on a solo career. Considered one of the greatest guitarists of all time, his albums spanned hard rock, jazz fusion, blues, and electronica.

**Richard Enos "Butch" Thompson**, 78. Jazz pianist and clarinetist, known for his ragtime and stride styling. He is probably best known for his performance for years on *Prairie Home Companion*.

## Sports

**Bud Grant**, 95. Legendary coach of the Minnesota Vikings, he led the team for 18 years and four Super Bowl appearances.

**Vin Scully**, 94. Hall of Fame broadcaster who called thousands of games for the Dodgers (Brooklyn and LA) for more than 67 years.

**Maury Wills**, 89. Base-stealing shortstop for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was the first player to steal more than 100 bases in one season, and 586 of them in his career.

**Bill Russell**, 88. NBA great who led the Boston Celtics to 11 championships in 13 years—the last two as the first Black head coach in any major US sport. He also marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and was an advocate for civil rights.

**Jim Brown**, 87. Arguably the best running back of all time, for the Cleveland Browns. He was inducted into both the Football Hall of Fame and the Lacrosse Hall of Fame. He quit football at the peak of his game to turn to acting (you might remember him in *The Dirty Dozen* or *Ice Station*

*Zebra*). And then he became a major influence in the civil rights movement. He also founded the Negro Industrial Economic Union, now called the Black Economic Union, to promote economic for minority business owners, and the Amer-I-Can Foundation to divert gang members and convicts from violence. But he was also a man of contradictions. He was imprisoned for domestic violence, and he publicly supported Donald Trump for President.

**Joe Kapp**, 85. The only quarterback to lead his time in the Rose Bowl, the Super Bowl, and the Grey Bowl. Having led the BC Lions of the Canadian Football League into the Grey Bowl, he was traded to the Vikings when Fran Tarkington retired and, in 1968 he led the Vikings to their first Super Bowl. His mantra was “40 for 60”—40 players on the squad giving their all for 60 minutes. He refused the MVP award, saying "There is no one most valuable Viking. There are 40 most valuable Vikings."

**Gaylord Perry**, 84. Spitball master who twice won the Cy Young Award and is in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Bobby Hull**, 84. Hockey’s “Golden Jet,” over a 23-year career he played for the Blackhawks, the Winnipeg Jets, and Hartford Whalers. He was the NHL’s MVP twice, the leading point scorer 3 times, and leading goal scorer 7 times.

**Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, 82. Universally known by his nickname, “Pele,” he was considered the greatest athlete of the century. As a forward for the Brazilian National Football Team (“soccer” to us gringos), he won three world cups and scored on average one goal in every game he played throughout his career. He was able to strike with either foot, and was a master at anticipating his opponents’ moves.

**Joe Pepitone**, 82. Yankees first-baseman, three-time golden glove winner.

**Mike Schuler**, 81. Coach for the NBA’s Portland Trailblazers and the LA Clippers. He was elected Coach of the Year in his rookie season with the Trailblazers.

**Willis Reed**, 80. Center for the NY Knicks for 10 years, he led the team to its first NBA championship in 1970. In 1996, he was voted one of the “50 Greatest Players in NBA History.” He was known for his willingness to play hurt, and his career was shortened by knee injuries.

## **Regional**

**Willard Vetter**, 96. Co-founder of Vetter Stone and of the MN Association of Small Cities.

**Helen Depuydt**, 95. Owner of Granny’s Café in St. Clair.

**John Todd**, 91. Co-founder of Layman-Todd Realty in Mankato.

**James Harten**, 87. Judge on MN Court of Appeals for 13 years.

**Jim Manahan**, 86. A graduate of Harvard, he practiced law in Mankato for more than 45 years.

**Mary Jo Surprenant**, 84. With her husband, Ken, she founded I&S Engineers (now ISG) in the basement of their Mankato home. He was the engineer, she was the business manager.

**Dr. Tom England**, 81. Mankato Clinic physician.

**Doug Johnson**, 80. Longtime MN Senator from the Iron Range.

**Kay Jacobson**, 79. Co-owner with her husband, Lyle, of Katolight and supporter of many area institutions including the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota, the Mankato Area Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and the Mankato Symphony Auxiliary.

**Jean-Nickolaus Tretter**, 76. LGBTQ archivist, activist, and historian. His collection of books, periodicals, personal records, zines, pamphlets, artifacts and ephemera, the largest in the Upper Midwest, is now housed at the UofM in a library named in his honor.

## Local

*Schools—Bethany*

*Schools—MSU*

**Ken Polzin**, 96. Director of Institutional Research in the 1980s.

**Mary Zimmerman**, 94. Manager of MSU Bookstore.

**Donald Sofchalk**, 93. Professor of History from 1965-91.

**Merrill Frydendall**, 88. Professor of Biology, and Ornithologist extraordinaire.

**Neala Schleuning**, 82. Founding director of the Women's Center at MSU.

**Mary Jane Bair**, 81. Administrative Assistant for 27 years.

*Schools—SCC*

*Schools—K-12*

**Bill Mickelson**, 95. Teacher and coach at Mankato High School.

**Carol Broughten**, 90. She spent more than 20 years teaching first grade at Roosevelt School because "I loved teaching them to read."

**Roger Stouffer**, 83. Teacher and ISD77 School Board member.

**Steve Braun**, 78. Longtime custodian at West High School.

## UUFM Members, Relatives & Friends

**Kay VanBuskirk**, 95. MSU Professor of Social Work and longtime member of our congregation.

**Arthur Evans**, 92. Laurie Evans father.



## From the “Baby Boom Generation,” (1946-1964) those born in a time of economic growth in the US and rebuilding from the tragedy of war abroad:

### International Affairs

**Ayman al-Zawahri**, 71. Egyptian surgeon who took over leadership of al-Qaida after Osama bin Laden. He was killed by a US drone strike in Afghanistan.

**Shinzo Abe**, 67. Japan’s longest-serving prime minister, he was assassinated apparently for his ties to the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. Abe’s politics have been described as conservative and Japanese nationalist.

### National Affairs

**Ken Starr**, 76. Former federal appellate judge who led the criminal investigation that led to the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

**Rev. Calvin O. Butts III**, 73. Civil rights icon and pastor of New York’s Abyssinian Baptist Church. In 1989 he established the nonprofit Abyssinian Development Corporation to develop moderate-income housing, retail, schools and other projects in Harlem, and mobilized church leaders to support AIDS programs in the 1980s and COVID-19 clinics recently. He also preached against the violence and misogyny in rap lyrics.

**Dave Smith**, 72. Engineer who invented the first programmable polyphonic synthesizer (its predecessor, the Moog synthesizer, could only play one note at a time) and the MIDI cable which allows different musical instruments to communicate in ensemble.

**Klaus Teuber**, 70. Creator of the hugely popular game, *Settlers of Catan*. He started out as a dental technician, and turned to game design as a refuge from the frustrations of his workaday life.

**Ashton Carter**, 68. He began his career as a PhD Physicist, but went on to become Secretary of Defense under President Obama. He ended the ban of transgender officers in the military and opened all military occupations and positions to women without exception.

### Writers

**Anne Garrels**, 71. International correspondent for NPR. She covered both Chechen wars, despite a Russian ban on outside journalists. After 9/11, she reported from the Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.

**Hilary Mantel**, 70. British author of 15 works of fiction, historical fiction, short story collections and memoir, she is best known for her trilogy on the life of Thomas Cromwell. When she won the Booker Prize for the first in the trilogy, *Wolf Hall*, she joked she was going to spend the prize money on “sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll.”

**Ian Falconer**, 63. Stage designer, but better known as the creator of the “Olivia the Pig” children’s books.

**Dom Phillips**, 57. British journalist, he was murdered in Brazil while researching a story on deforestation in the Amazon.

### Actors & Film

**Leo Anthony Gallagher, Jr.**, 76. Long-haired comedian who used his “sledg-o-matic” to splatter his audience with watermelon guts. He also ran for governor of California (he came in 16<sup>th</sup> out of 135 candidates).

**Robbie Coltrane**, 72. Scottish actor best known for his role as Hagrid in the Harry Potter movies. He also starred in the British TV crime series, *Cracker*. In case you were wondering, he was born Anthony Robert McMillan but renamed himself in his 20’s after John Coltrane.

**Kirstie Alley**, 71. She won an Emmy for her role as Rebecca Howe on *Cheers*, another for her role in the miniseries *David’s Mother*, and starred in movies, including “Look Who’s Talking.”

**Leslie Jordan**, 67. American actor, comedian, writer, and singer, he is probably best known for his TV roles, including Beverly Leslie on *Will and Grace* and Sid on *Cool Kids*.

**Lisa Loring**, 64. Actor, best known for her role as Wednesday in *The Addams Family*, a role she played when she was 6. She continued acting in film and TV, best known for her roles in soap operas.

### Music & Art

**Keith Reed**, 76. Lyricist for *Procul Harem*, he wrote the lyrics for “A Whiter Shade of Pale.”

**Anita Pointer**, 74. Lead singer and songwriter for The Pointer Sisters, who had such hits as "Fairytale", "Yes We Can Can", "Fire", "Slow Hand", and "I'm So Excited". They won 7 Grammys in the 70s and 80s.

**Dame Olivia Newton-John**, 73. Actress and singer, 4-time Grammy winner, with 11 singles and 14 gold albums (several of which went platinum). She is probably best-known for her role as Sandy in the musical *Grease* and as Kira in *Xanadu*. She lived with breast cancer much of her life, and was knighted for her charitable work and advocacy for cancer research.

**Jeff Cook**, 73. Guitarist and co-founder of the country group Alabama. Their hits include “Song of the South” and “Dixieland Delight.”

**Irene Cara**, 63. Hers was the voice of the theme song for *Fame* and “What a Feeling” from *Flashdance*.

**Rhagavan Iyer**, 61. Nationally and internationally honored chef, his cookbooks won the James Beard Award. Born in Mumbai, he came to the States to study Hospitality at Southwest State University, and opened restaurants in Minneapolis. His final book, *On the Curry Trail*, was published a month before his death.



**Artis Leon Ivey, Jr**, 59. We knew him as “Coolio,” and for his rap songs “Gangsta’s Paradise” and “Fantastic Voyage.”

**Lisa Marie Presley**, 54. Singer/songwriter, philanthropist, and daughter of Elvis Presley.

## Sports

**Dick Fosbury**, 76. Originator of the “Fosbury Flop” high-jump technique, which won him Olympic Gold. Before him, high jumpers used “scissors kick” in which they followed the leading leg up and over the bar. Fosbury led with his head with the legs following last—the standard form still today.

**Vida Blue**, 73. Pitcher for the Oakland A’s, he led them to three World Series championships.

**Franco Harris**, 72. Running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers for 12 years, he was selected nine times to the Pro Bowl, won four Super Bowls and Super Bowl Most Valuable Player (MVP) honors in Super Bowl IX against the Minnesota Vikings. He was the first African-American and the first Italian-American to be named Super Bowl MVP. His “Immaculate Reception” (in his rookie year) gave the Steelers their first ever playoff win in 1972.

## Regional

**Jim Miller**, 74. Lakota spiritual leader and founder of the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride.

**Mark Shult**, 73. “Mark the Barber” on Belgrade Avenue in North Mankato.

**Al Fack**, 73. Blue Earth County social worker and driving force behind the Eclipse crisis counseling center. He also was a force behind the River Bend Folk Festival.

**John Sheran**, 72. Friend to many in our congregation, he spent his early years in Mankato and then returned to practice law for many years at the Farrish Law Firm.

**Dave Tomassoni**, 69. Iron-Range legislator, he served in the House and Senate for 29 years. He chaired the Senate Economic Development Committee and the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Committee and served briefly as President of the Senate. Most of the time he served as a member of the DFL, but after the 2020 election he and fellow-Ranger Tom Bakk left the DFL to form an Independent caucus. He also played professional hockey in Italy for 16 years and played on the Italian team in the 1984 Winter Olympics, and served as Vice-Chair of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

## Local

*Schools—Bethany*

*Schools—MSU*

**Ann Widness**, 71. Adjunct instructor in the Art Department.

*Schools—SCC*

**Doug Midthun**, 74. Taught Accounting at SCC for 26 years.

### UUFM

**Jane Schostag**, 76. English teacher at West High, YWCA Woman of Distinction, and past President of UUFM.

**Mark Spangler**, 59. KEEZ radio and Moondogs announcer, Paraprofessional at West High, and member of our congregation.

### From “Generation X,” (1965-1980) those born in the “baby bust” in the times of the Viet Nam War and the first energy crisis (remember Jimmy Carter’s cardigan?):

**Anne Heche**, 53. American actress. She started her career portraying twins in a soap opera (for which she won a Daytime Emmy, and went on to critical acclaim in film, TV, and the stage. She is probably best known for her roles in *Donnie Brasco* and *Wag the Dog*.

**Jason David Frank**, 49. You probably don’t recognize his name—or even his face—but you knew him as the Green Power Ranger, Tommy Oliver.

**Heather Armstrong**, 47. Queen of the Mommy Bloggers, known as “Dooce.” At her peak she had over 8 million followers. She was known for her blunt language as she chronicled the challenges of marriage, childrearing, depression, and alcohol. Early in her career, she was fired from her tech job when the boss read her candid comments about office culture, inspiring the popular internet phrase, “Dooiced,” referring to people who find themselves scanning job listings after posting ill-advised comments online.

### From “Generation Z,” (1997-2012) those born in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: International Affairs

#### Sports

**Alexander, aka “Technoblade,”** 23. American YouTube and internet personality known for his Minecraft videos and livestreams (and, so Esports, which is why I put him in this section) died of metastasized cancer. He first registered his YouTube channel at age 14, and it grew to more than 14 million followers. His signature phrase was “Technoblade never dies!” His death was announced on his channel by his father, who read a letter written by Technoblade 8 hours before his death, designating that any future proceeds from his merchandising and videos would go to the Sarcoma Foundation. His personal identity has never been revealed, other than his first name.

There are many others whose names I have not read—some known to most of us, some special to one of us. Speak aloud the name of those have died this year who hold a special place in your memory.