



In Memory 2021

“On this Memorial Day Weekend, we take time to remember, with deep gratitude, the many who have left us in this past year and have lighted or supported the light within us.”

We Gather and Invite

Opening Music: Samuel Barber, Adagio for Strings <https://youtu.be/Hc8gYoXkLZ4>

Announcements to “Waiting in Vain” (instrumental) by Black Jamaican singer, songwriter, musician, and tireless justice advocate Bob Marley (1945-81) [Bob Marley - Waiting In Vain Instrumental - YouTube](#)

Bell Chime

Call to Worship: “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”
Albert Schweitzer

Opening Song: Johnny Nash died this year at 80. He was a singer-songwriter, actor and producer. He helped launch the career of his friend, Bob Marley, and is best known for his anthem, “I Can See Clearly Now.” Let’s listen: <https://youtu.be/FscIgtDJFXg>

Welcome

We Center Ourselves to Worship/Shape Worth

Chalice Lighting: *We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.*

Story for All Ages: *When the Wind Stops* by Charlotte Zolotow <https://youtu.be/MbngGUz51x4>
Read on video by Children's Faith Development Director Macey Forsyth.

We Build Community

Giving: With offertory #402 (gray hymnal) "From You I Receive" by Joseph and Nathan Segal (brothers and both rabbis who wrote and sang together in the 1960s-1980s; sung by Unitarian Universalist minister the Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt <https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA>)

Bell Chime

Sorrows and Joys: Please type into the Chat, and Tony will read aloud

Singing: "Comfort Me," sung by Mimi Borstein; accompanied by Jeff Lowry

Meditation:

The COVID crisis is driving home how many of us were used to stability (at least in the United States, at least for those who are not living every day with poverty). How we plotted our career paths, how we insured our economic security, how we interpreted our domestic and international and global striving—they all were made on the assumption that the environment was stable. Any change would come from our behavior, our intentions, our efforts; and the fault (or success) would be on us. But now, failure is out of our hands—people are dying because they were exposed to something they could not perceive or avoid; people are out of work not because they or their company failed but because they could not go to work; retirement plans, customer bases and company "good will," athletic and performance careers are evaporating despite the best-laid plans. The ways that our lives are inherently contingent, rather than a reward or punishment for our moral choices, is driven home. We realize the truth that nothing is given us except this day—the past is gone, the future is uncertain.

And yet, we have cause to remember, with deep gratitude, the many who have lighted or supported the light within us—even though sometimes we can only see it clearly some time after it was done. Today is a time to hold in memory, if only briefly, a few (only a few) of the people who, for better or ill, have brought us to where we are today as we, all, build on the memories that will carry forward those who are coming behind us. Let us take a moment to each recall some of those who have done this for us.

We Take a Deeper Dive

Sermon: In Memory, 2021

We have a tradition at UUFM that goes back to 1999 when our part-time minister then, Rev. Sarah Oehlberg, celebrated Memorial Day by remembering those who had died in the last year. While she would deliver her sermon at Nora Church in Hanska, I would read it to us on Pohl Road. After she retired, I continued the practice on my own. With the Covid Crisis and social distancing, this year is a little different. I will not deliver the whole memorial—it is available on our website, if you are interested. It is just too long for an online recitation. Instead, I will pick and choose a few to highlight from each section.

Lest we forget, this was, yet again, a year marked by violence—

- 635 people killed in mass shootings in the last year in the US. They seem to be happening every other day, and this number is probably outdated even as I speak it.
- 895 people in the US were killed by the police last year, 10 of them in Minnesota (and another 7 already this year). Among them:
 - **George Floyd**, 46. Arrested by Minneapolis police for a nonviolent crime, he died in their custody while an officer knelt on his neck and George pleaded, “Please, I can’t breathe.” And
 - **Daunte Wright**, 20. Shot by an officer in Brooklyn Center who had stopped him for an air freshener hanging from his rear-view mirror.

And, so far, Covid 19 has claimed over 3.25 million people worldwide, almost 600,000 in the US, and over 7,200 in Minnesota. Among them:

- **Theodore Lumpkin, Jr.**, 100. One of the Tuskegee airmen, he died of COVID just days short of 101st birthday.
- **Tom Moore**, 100. WWII veteran, knighted by Queen Elizabeth after he raised \$45million for the COVID efforts of the National Health Service—by doing lapse with his walker around the courtyard at the nursing home where he was living.
- **Lawrence Harvey Zieger, “Larry King,”** 87. For half a century he was the king of talk show hosts.
- **Charley Pride**, 86. Son of a Mississippi sharecropper, he was country music’s first Black superstar with hits like “Kiss an Angel Good Morning.”
- **Oscar Cruz**, 85. Archbishop of the Philippines, critic of government corruption.
- **Suhaila Siddiq**, 81 or 82. A renowned surgeon and Afghanistan’s first female general.
- **Fr. Reginald Foster**, 81. Latinist and official translator for 4 popes. The NY Times described him as “a monk who looked like a stevedore, dressed like a janitor, and swore like a sailor (usually in Latin).” The Swiss Guards at the Vatican called him *il benzinaio* (the gas-station attendant). He taught Latin at the Gregorian Institute in Rome for 30 years, with chalk in one hand and a glass of

wine in the other. They fired him for taking on too many pupils for free. He was quoted saying “Prostitutes, beggars, and pimps in Rome spoke Latin, so there must be some hope for the rest of us.”

- **Phil Spector**, 81. Famous for his “wall of sound” music production in the 60s and 70s, he died in prison serving a sentence for murder.
- **Nikolai Antoshkin**, 78. Commander of the helicopter fire-fighting unit which contained the fires at the Chernobyl meltdown.
- **Kay Toinette (K.T.) Oslin**, 78. Three-time Grammy winner, first woman to win a Country Music Association award for Song of the Year (“80s Ladies”).
- **Herman Cain**, 74. Former Godfather’s Pizza CEO and later Republican presidential candidate, he came down with COVID a week after attending a Trump rally in Tulsa.
- **Saeb Erekat**, 65. Peace negotiator and prominent spokesman for the Palestinian state.
- **Patty Sakal**, 62. Hawaiian ASL interpreter, daughter of two hearing-impaired parents, she translated updates about COVID for the State. She contracted COVID while visiting her daughter in San Diego.
- **Becca Knox**, 47. John Knox’s cousin’s daughter.
- **Nick Cordero**, 41. Tony-nominated song & dance stage actor.
- Two unnamed infants who died from COVID, one in Oregon and one in Illinois, the youngest victims of the disease in the United States.

International Affairs

Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, 99. For 73 years, Prince Consort to Queen Elizabeth II.

Idriss Deby, 68. With 30 years in office, he was one of the longest-serving Presidents in Africa. He was just elected to his sixth term in office when he was killed while inspecting his troops who were battling rebels in the north.

National Affairs

Brent Scowcroft, 95. An Air Force General, he served as an advisor to four presidents, twice as National Security Advisor.

Rev. C T Vivian, 95. He began staging sit-ins against segregation in Peoria, IL in the 1940s. In the 50’s he met Dr. King, marched in Selma, and organized the Freedom Rides. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.

John Warner, 94. For 30 years, Senator from Virginia. He also served as Secretary of the Navy. And he was Elizabeth Taylor’s sixth husband.

Walter “Fritz” Mondale, 93. Born on a farm in rural Ceylon, MN, he grew up to be MN Attorney General, Senator, Ambassador to Japan, Vice President of the United States, champion of civil rights and just basically a very decent human being.

David Dinkins, 93. First Black mayor of New York City, he was known for his low-key, considered approach and his polite, formal manner—a contrast to his predecessor, Ed Koch, and his successor, Rudy Giuliani who embodied the City’s reputation for impatience and rudeness.

Roger Mudd, 93. Peabody winner and longtime anchor for NBC and CBS News and correspondent for PBS NewsHour. He allowed that he “absolutely loved” covering the Congress—“All of them wanting to talk, great access, politics morning, noon, and night, as opposed to the White House, where everything is zipped up and tightly held.”

Michael Collins, 90. The astronaut who flew the Apollo 11 command module Columbia around the Moon in 1969 while his crewmates, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, made the first crewed landing on the surface. He was also a test pilot and major general in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Son of career army officer (his father became a major general in the Army), he was born in Rome and attended school in Puerto Rico (where, at age 10, he flew in a Grumman Widgeon and was allowed to take the controls for a spell). He graduated from West Point and took a commission in the Air Force to avoid the appearance of nepotism (besides his father, his brother was already an Army colonel at the time).

G. Gordon Liddy, 90. Mastermind of Nixon’s Watergate “Plumbers,” the lawyer and former FBI agent was convicted of conspiracy, burglary, and wiretapping. While working for the White House, he also recommended assassinating political enemies, bombing left-leaning think tanks, and kidnapping war protesters. Once out of prison, he shamelessly marketed his reputation and became a syndicated talk-show host, wrote memoirs and novels, and acted in TV shows.

Richard Thornburgh, 88. Pennsylvania governor who handled the Three Mile Island crisis, and then US Attorney General, first under Ronald Reagan and then George HW Bush. He led investigations of savings & loan fraud and prosecuted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega for drug trafficking.

Bernard Cohen, 86. Just 7 years out of law school, he defended Mildred & Richard Loving before the Supreme Court in the 1967 in the landmark civil rights case that struck down anti-miscegenation laws. In his summary, he quoted Richard Loving: “Mr Cohen, tell the Court I love my wife and it is just unfair that I can’t live with her in Virginia.”

Vernon Jordan, 85. Civil rights icon. Raised in public housing, he began his career defending Hamilton Homes and Charlayne Hunter as they integrated the University of Georgia. He went on to serve as field secretary for the Georgia NAACP, executive director of United Negro College Fund and then the National Urban League. Later, he moved to lobbying and corporate influencing, becoming senior managing partner at Lazard & Freres. He was called the “first Friend” of the Clinton White House, whom he encouraged to approve the NAFTA treaty, and he approached Colin Powell to serve as Secretary of State in the Bush administration. His autobiography is *Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir*.

Larry Kramer, 84. Co-founder of ACT-UP, the AIDS advocacy group.

John Lewis, 80. Civil Rights icon and practitioner of “good trouble,” he was elected to Congress in 1987 and served until his death. A few days before his death, he wrote this for the New York Times: “Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart

and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can do to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring. When historians pick up their pens to write the history of the 21st century, let them say it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression, and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.” As David Brooks said a few days after his death, “There’s a reason we’re paying attention, because moral exemplars don’t come along every day.”

Rush Limbaugh, 70. Conservative talk show host who became a major force in American politics. He specialized in sarcastic, insult-laced commentary and, along with Newt Gingrich, paved the way for Donald Trump’s brand of politics.

Science & Business

Dorothy Schmidt Cole, 107. America’s oldest living Marine. She tried to enlist in the Navy after Pearl Harbor, but at 4’ 11” she was too short for Navy standards. So she learned to fly an airplane so she could become a Marine Corps pilot. When the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve was formed in 1943 she was one of the first to enlist, at age 29. Despite 200 hours in the cockpit of a Piper Cub, the Corps put her behind a typewriter instead of in the cockpit of an airplane. As they say, there’s a right way and a wrong way... and the Army way.

Hugh Downs, 99. Broadcaster for NBC (both Today and Tonight shows), ABC (20/20), and PBS (Over Easy and Live from Lincoln Center), he once held the Guinness Record for most hours in front of a TV Camera (Regis Philbin passed him in 2004).

Chuck Yeager, 97. World War II flying ace, and then pilot of the X-1 when he broke the sound barrier. He began his military service as a private in 1941, first as an aircraft mechanic, then as an enlisted pilot. He flew in three wars (WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam) and retired as a brigadier general.

Masatoshi Koshihira, 94. He was awarded the Nobel for his work tracking neutrinos. He started out as a German major, but he overheard his professor question his ability to ever understand physics when he failed his class, so he set out to prove him wrong. He first worked on trapping cosmic rays underground, but when that work didn’t turn out he converted his research site to neutrino detection—and got usable results just one month before his scheduled retirement.

Dr. John Najarian, 92. Internationally renowned transplant surgeon, he led the surgery department at the UofM for years. He helped create ALG, the anti-rejection drug.

Jerome Kagan, 92. Harvard developmental psychologist who specialized in the study of temperament. In the nature/nurture debate, he started out stressing nurture (acquired behavior), but in his later years he stressed the role of nature (genetic influence).

Randall Hamilton James Zwingi, 92. “The Amazing Randi,” the Canadian-American stage magician. What’s a magician doing here with the scientists? He spent a good part of his time debunking paranormal or pseudoscientific claims. He founded the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

John Mooney, 90. Inventor of the catalytic converter, one of the 10 most important innovations in the history of the automobile.

Sheldon Adelson, 87. Billionaire entrepreneur who owned the Sands gambling empire, and was a major donor to political campaigns, including Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu.

Robert Gore, 83. Inventor of Gore-tex fabric.

Joe Clark, 82. Principal who turned around Eastside High in Paterson, New Jersey. He was infamous for roaming the halls carrying a bullhorn and a baseball bat, and he once expelled 300 students in one day. His story was turned into the film, *Lean on Me*.

Ken Spears, 82. Creator of Scooby-Doo.

Bernie Madoff, 82. Wall Street investment broker whose pyramid scheme collapsed during the financial crisis of 2007. Actual losses to his investors added up to almost \$20 billion. He was sentenced to 150 years for his crimes, and died in prison of kidney failure.

Siegfried Fischbacher, 81. Part of the team, Siegfried and Roy, who brought spectacular performances to Las Vegas bull of smoke machines, white tigers, lasers, elephants, sequins, snakes and illusions galore. His partner, Roy Horn, died last May of COVID.

Frank Shankwitz, 77. An Arizona Highway Patrol officer, he co-founded the Make a Wish Foundation to help terminally ill children realize their dreams.

Chad Kalepa Baybayan, 64. Hawaiian seafarer who taught the art of “wayfaring” (the Polynesian craft of navigating by the stars, trade winds, and flight of birds). He crewed on the Hokule’a (“Star of Gladness”), a voyaging canoe, for more than 40 years, eventually being recognized as a master navigator. He was part of the 1976 voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti, which disproved the theory that the Polynesia was settled by sailors who were lost at sea. In 2014, he led the Hokule’a on a 3-year voyage circumnavigating the globe using only wayfaring.

Tony Hsieh, 46. Recently retired after 20 years as CEO of Zappos, the online shoe retailer, he died as a result of injuries from a housefire in Connecticut.

Writers

Beverly Cleary, 104. Creator of the beloved Romana & Beezus Quimby books. She was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress in 2000.

Lawrence Monsanto Ferlinghetti, 101. American poet, painter, social activist, and the co-founder of City Lights Booksellers & Publishers. He is best known for his first collection of poems, *A Coney Island of the Mind*.

Eric Carle, 94. Beloved author and illustrator of more than 70 books which sold more than 145 million copies. Probably the best-known is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. He was born in the US of German parents, who returned to Germany before WWII. He was educated there, and returned to the US in the 1950s to work as a graphic designer for the *NY Times* and then for an ad agency. His work there led to his notice by the publishing industry, and the rest is history.

Norton Juster, 91. Children's author who wrote *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Then he wrote *The Dot and the Line*. Then he wrote *Stark Naked: A Paranomastic Odyssey* (look it up).

David John Moore Cornwell, 89. You know him as John le Carre, author of espionage novels like *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy*. He came by his stories honestly—he was an agent for both MI5 and MI6 in Britain.

Ben Bova, 88. Science fiction author and editor of *Analog* and *Omni* magazines. He gave many science fiction writers their start.

Larry McMurtry, 84. Author of *The Lonesome Dove* and *The Last Picture Show*. Best known for his novels of the contemporary West, he wrote more than 30 novels, as well as movie & TV scripts, memoirs, biographies, and memoirs. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2014.

Gail Sheehy, 83. Her name was known everywhere with the 1976 publication of her book, *Passages*, which focused on the mid-life crises that Boomers were facing. Her message: “Simply, older is better.” She went on to be a journalist and commentator specializing in psychological portraits of public figures, including the Clintons, Thatcher, and Gorbachev.

Winston Groom, 77. Author of 22 books, both fiction and nonfiction. But he is best known for only one—*Forrest Gump*.

Sam McBratney, 77, Irish author of the children's book, *Guess How Much I Love You*, which sold more than 50 million copies in 57 languages. He wrote 50 other books, including *Will You Be My Friend* which came out two weeks after his death.

Joanna Cole, 75. She wrote the Magic School Bus books, which sparked a love of science in so many of our children. Ms. Frizzle lives on, in an animated TV series, a Netflix series, and soon a live-action movie.

Damon Weaver, 23. Youngest person to conduct an interview with a sitting president (he was 11). He met with President Obama in the White House for 10 minutes, asking 12 questions focused primarily on education and schools (bullying, school lunches, conflict resolution, and how to succeed). He also interviewed Miami Heat star Dwayne Wade and media star Oprah Winfrey.

Actors & Film

Olivia deHavilland, 104. Best known for her role as Melanie Wilkes in *Gone with the Wind*, she won Oscars for her performances in *To Each His Own* and *The Heiress*. She also played Maid Marion across from Errol Flynn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and Hermia (across from Mickey Rooney's Puck) in the 1953 *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Marge Champion, 101. With her husband, Gower Champion, they were an influential dance duo of stage and screen in the '50s.

Carl Reiner, 98. Writer, actor, and director. He was Sid Caesar's “second banana,” creator and performer in “The Dick VanDyke Show,” and the straight man to Mel Brooks' “2000 Year Old Man.”

Cicely Tyson, 96. Acclaimed actor who won the Emmy, the Tony, the Peabody, and an Honorary Oscar Award—and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her career spanned more than 70 years (she was active almost up to her death), including *Sounder*, *The Biography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *The Help*, and *How to Get Away with Murder*.

Cloris Leachman, 94. She won an Oscar for her supporting role in “The Last Picture Show,” two Emmies for her role in “Malcolm in the Middle.” She also played Grandma Moses on the stage, aging from 45 to 101 in one night. I remember her most for her role as Frau Blucher in “Young Frankenstein” and Phyllis on the “Mary Tyler Moore Show.”

Hal Holbrook, 93. For over 60 years he performed a one-man show as Mark Twain, for which he won a Tony. He also won 5 Emmies, and was nominated for an Academy Award.

Christopher Plummer, 91. Canadian actor on stage, screen, and TV. He is one of the few, and the only Canadian, to win the “triple crown” of acting—an Academy Award, two Emmies, two Tonys. He also won a Golden Globe. He is probably best known for his role as Captain von Trapp in *Sound of Music*, although over his 70 years he performed many memorable roles.

Sean Connery, 90. The name is Connery, *Sean* Connery. The quintessential James Bond, he went on to a number of other roles, both serious and comedic. He was awarded an Oscar for his supporting role in *The Untouchables*.

Olympia Dukakis, 89. Daughter of Greek immigrants, her first career was as a physical therapist working with underserved children. She was always interested in acting, but her parents insisted she go to college for something practical. While she was working in Boston, she studied drama at Boston University and went on to a career on stage and screen. She won an Oscar for her role as Cher’s mother in *Moonstruck*.

Ian Holm, 88. Perhaps best known for his role as Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* and in *The Lord of the Rings*, he was also nominated for an academy award for his role in *Chariots of Fire* and the Laurence Olivier Award for his performance as King Lear for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Regis Philbin, 88. Co-host of the morning show from 1985-2000 “Live with Regis and Kathie Lee” and from 2001-2011 “Live with Regis and Kelly.” He logged more than 15,000 hours on the air, topping the record set by Hugh Downs.

Dudley Riggs, 88. Son of two circus performers, he grew up with no permanent address for his first 30 years. Traveling around the world with his parents’ circus, he performed as an aerialist, a acrobat, and a clown, and it was there that he learned improvisation. When he left the circus, he started a coffee shop in Minneapolis (with the first espresso machine in the Midwest), and to sell coffee he opened a stage for improv comedy. In time this became *The Brave New Workshop*, one of the premier comedy training grounds in the country.

George Segal, 87. Banjo-player turned actor, he is best known for his comedic roles in movies such as *The Owl and Pussycat* and *Fun With Dick and Jane* and TV roles such as “Pops” Solomon, the grandfather in *The Goldbergs*. But he was nominated for an academy award for his role in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, a movie with only four characters, all four of whom received nominations.

Wilford Brimley, 85. Stunt man who worked his way up to leading man. He was best known for his roles in *Cocoon* and *The Natural*.

David Prowse, 85. British weight-lifter turned actor, he was the body (though not the voice) of Darth Vader in the original Star Wars trilogy.

Diana Rigg, 82. Shakespearean actor, but better known for her role as Mrs. Peale in the TV series *The Avengers*, Countess Teresa di Vicenzo, wife of James Bond, in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, and Olenna Tyrell in *Game of Thrones*

Dawn Wells, 82. She played Mary Ann on the TV sitcom *Gilligan's Island*.

Alex Trebek, 80. Son of a Ukranian immigrant and a French Canadian, he had considered becoming a priest, but didn't enjoy the vow of silence. So he became a radio announcer and then for 36 years the host of the daytime gameshow "Jeopardy." He was famous for his precise pronunciation and for making the material and the contestants the stars of the show. And for that, he became a star himself.

Alan Parker, 76. Director of 10 Academy Award movies, including *Mississippi Burning*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Midnight Express*, and *Evita*.

Chadwick Boseman, 43. He portrayed Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Thurgood Marshall. He is best known for his last role, as the Black Panther.

Music & Art

Vera Lynn, 103. "The Forces' Sweetheart," the British singer was best known for her patriotic songs during World War II, like *White Cliffs of Dover*, *We'll Meet Again* and *There'll Always Be an England*. She released a collections album in 2017 which was a #3 hit, making her the first centenarian performer to have a Top 10 album in the charts. She was appointed a Dame in 1975 for her charitable work.

Pietro Constante (Pierre) Cardin, 98. Italian-born French fashion designer, known for his geometric forms that ignored the female form. Which is why I include him under "Art" rather than "Business."

Eugene Wright, 97. Bassist for the Dave Brubeck Quartet. It was his rhythm that is driving behind Brubeck's piano in *Time Out* and *Time Further Out*.

Ennio Morricone, 91. Oscar-winning Italian composer wrote the themes for "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," "The Untouchables," "The Mission," "The Hateful Eight," and "Once Upon a Time in America." For all his work with Hollywood, they had to come to him--he never left his native Rome.

Phyllis McGuire, 89. Last surviving member of the McGuire Sisters, the 1950s trio whose hits included "Sincerely" and "Sugartime."

Jimmie Rogers, 87. His 1957 hit, "Honeycomb" went gold. He was a popular country/pop singer in the late 50s and early 60s.

Jacques d'Amboise, 86. Born Joseph Jacques Ahearn, he followed his sister into ballet at age 7 and six months later was enrolled in Balanchine's School of American Ballet. He went on to become arguably the most famous American male ballet dancer of his generation. His French-Canadian mother convinced the family to adopt her surname because it was "more aristocratic, a better stage name." At 15 he quit school join the New York City Ballet, where he danced the lead in 24 ballets and choreographed another 17. He also appeared on film, among them *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Carousel*. In his 40's he established the National Dance Institute to promote dance to children; it began with 30 boys but now has reached more than 2 million children around the country. He retired from dancing at age 50 because "there were few roles he could dance at his age" (he had also blown out his knee a few years earlier).

Christo Vladimirov Javacheff, 84. Easy for me to say; most people just knew him by his first name, Christo. The Bulgarian artist was famous for large projects, frequently involving wrapping in fabric, that he developed with his wife, Jeanne-Claude Denat. They including wrapping the gates to Central Park, the Reichstag building, the Pont Neuf, the Kunsthalle, and a Roman Wall. He and his wife were born on the same day in the same year and "in the same moment," according to him. After her death in 2009, Christo said she was argumentative and very critical and always asking questions and he missed that very much.

Charlie Daniels, 83. He went from a session musician behind the likes of Bob Dylan, he formed his own band and toured constantly—sometimes 250 concerts in a year. He is best known for his fiddle tune, "The Devil Went to Georgia," and "Drinkin' My Baby Goodbye."

Trini Lopez, 83. He is probably best known for his cover of "If I Had a Hammer" and for "Lemon Tree." He also had an acting career, including a role as one of the Dirty Dozen.

Siah Armajani, 81. Iranian exile artist who adopted Minneapolis as his home. One of his first works, "Land Deeds," was composed of the deeds for one square inch of land in each of the 50 states. He is best known for his design for the Olympic torch for the Atlanta games in 1996, and best loved in Minnesota for his design of the Whitney Bridge at the Walker Sculpture Garden.

Chick Corea, 79. Jazz pianist with 23 Grammys. He had a successful solo career, and he worked with Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. He also dropped out of Columbia and Julliard. Guess he didn't need it.

Helen Reddy, 78. Part of a show-business family in Australia, she won a contest that brought her to the US and launched her recording career. While she had a string of hits, including a cover of "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from *Superstar*, she won a Grammy for her feminist anthem, "I Am a Woman." Let's listen. <https://youtu.be/rptW7zOPX2E>

Gerry Marsden, 78. His band, Gerry and the Pacemakers, rivaled The Beatles in the Liverpool rock scene in the 1960s. His hits included "Ferry Across the Mersey" and "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying." His cover of "You'll Never Walk Alone" became the signature song of the Liverpool Football Club.

James Levine, 77. Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera for almost 45 years. He conducted more than 2500 performances during his tenure. He won 10 Grammy awards (and was nominated for

37). He stepped back from conducting in 2016 due to Parkinson's disease, and was later relieved from all duties at the Met when charges of sexual misconduct surfaced.

Mary Wilson, 76. One of the original Supremes, the Motown trio that had 12 No.1 hits.

Bonnie Pointer, 69. Singer and songwriter of the Pointer Sisters, best known for their version of *Yes We Can Can*.

Earl Simmons, 50. Better known as the rapper DMX. In addition to his music, he also performed in movies and had a television series.

Sports

Sid Hartman, 100. Sports columnist for the *StarTribune* and WCCO radio. He started in the business when he was 8, delivering papers. He wrote in the Strib in every decade after that, still writing 3 columns a week, his final one appearing the day he died.

Mark Sertich, 99. World's oldest hockey player, the amateur skated his last game a month before he died. Over the years, his injuries included losing teeth (of course), a broken ankle, and a punctured lung. He took no pain killers or medicines, figuring his body would heal itself. By the way, he also served with General Patton in the Battle of the Bulge.

Jerry Burns, 94. Football coach, for 24 years with the Vikings. As defensive coach, he helped the Packers win Super Bowl I and II. When Bud Grant formed the Vikings, he hired Burns as offensive coach where he led the team to four Super Bowls in the 1970s. When Grant retired, Burns took over as head coach.

Edward Charles "Whitey" Ford, 91. Nicknamed "The Chairman of the Board," he pitched his entire 16 years with the Yankees. He was a ten-time and six-time ea champion. In 1961, he won both the Cy Young Award and World Series Most Valuable Player Award.

K.C. Jones, 88. Boston Celtics Hall of Famer, Olympic gold medalist, two-time NCAA champion, and winner of 8 straight NBA titles.

Hank Aaron, 86. "Hammerin' Hank," he broke Babe Ruth's home run record in his 23 years of baseball, mostly with the Braves in Milwaukee and then Atlanta. With two National League batting titles, his lifetime batting average was .305. He posted double-digit stolen bases for nine straight seasons, include 31 in one season. Although his home-run record fell 33 years later, he still holds the record for RBIs, extra-base hits, and total bases. Selected as an All-Star for 21 years in a row, he won only one World Series and one MVP (both in 1957). He lived with discrimination and hate mail for most of his career, and devoted much of his time after retirement to social justice issues.

Jeannie Morris, 85. Barrier-breaking sportswriter, the first woman to cover a Superbowl and first woman to win the Ring Lardner Award for sports journalism. She also wrote the book that became the movie, "Brian's Song." Early in her career, she signed her columns as "John Morris."

Bob Gibson, 84. He pitched for 17 years with the St. Louis Cardinals. In the first game of the 1968 World Series against Detroit, he struck out 17 batters. He was twice named World Series MVP.

Paul Hornung, 84. “Golden Boy” of the Green Bay Packers, he could run, receive, quarterback, and kick. He also won the Heisman Trophy when he played at Notre Dame. In 2016 he sued helmet manufacturer Riddell Inc., claiming their helmets failed to protect him from concussions. He died of dementia.

Eddie Shack, 83, skated for the Toronto Maple Leafs for 9 years and 4 Stanley Cups in the ‘60s. His nickname was “The Entertainer” for his cowboy hats and handlebar moustache. When asked why he would hit a player and then apologize, he said “Well, sometimes I lie.”

Lou Brock, 81. 19 years in Major League Baseball, he played most of his career as a left-fielder with the St. Louis Cardinals. Six times an All-Star, he broke Ty Cobb’s record for the most bases stolen.

Phil Niekro, 81. Five-time All Star, he retired from the pros after 24 years at the age of 48. He won 318 games for the Atlanta Braves with his knuckleball, a pitch that baffled batters and catcher alike. He admitted he didn’t even know where it was going most of the time.

John Thompson, Jr., 78. “Big John,” as he was known, coached the Georgetown Hoyas basketball team for 27 years.

Joe Morgan, 77. Hall of Fame second baseman and sparkplug of Cincinnati’s Big Red Machine in the ‘70s.

Tom Seaver, 75. “Tom Terrific,” he pitched for 20 years, 10 of them with the Mets. Rookie of the Year, 3-time Cy Young Award winner, and 12-time All Star. He died of Lewy Body Dementia, complicated by Covid.

Matt Blair, 70. All-pro linebacker for the Vikings in the hard-hitting 70s and 80s. He died of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephelopathy).

Leon Spinks, 67. He won a gold medal in Olympic boxing in 1976, and defeated Mohammed Ali in 1978—only to be defeated by Ali 7 months later.

Mark Pavelich, 63. He played on the “Miracle on Ice” Olympic hockey team, and was an Iron Range sports legend. His last years were spent struggling with the effects of traumatic brain injury from his years in hockey.

Diego Maradona, 60. Argentine soccer great who in 1986 scored the most reviled World Cup goal (the infamous “Hand of God” goal when he used his left hand rather than his head to punch the ball into the net) and the most spectacular (he dribbled past every player from the opposite side and scored a three-bank goal)—both within 2 minutes of each other. His nickname was “Pibe de Oro”—Golden Boy.

Regional

Iris Westman, 115. Seventh oldest person in the world. Born in 1905 on a farm in Aneta, ND, she graduated from UND in 1928 (when very few women were college-educated) and was an English

teacher in ND and Worthington, MN. She went on to earn a library science certificate from UofM. She retired as a school librarian in 1972 and lived independently for the next 40 years until she moved to a nursing home in 2012 when she was 107.

Jim Klobuchar, 93. Journalist, author, columnist and travel guide from Minnesota. He wrote for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis for three decades, and wrote an occasional column for The Christian Science Monitor. His editor, he said, told him to write “anything he liked, as long as it wasn’t boring or libelous.” He led bike trips around Minnesota, climbed the Matterhorn 8 times and Kilimanjaro 5 times. He was described as “Minnesota’s Hemingway,” and like Hemingway he struggled with alcohol (he was 28 years sober when he died).

James Buckley, Sr., 92. Executive Director of the Mankato YMCA for 19 years. He was instrumental in the founding of the Mankato Wacipi (Powwow).

Alexander MacDonald “Sandy” Keith, 91. He was the first person to serve all three branches of Minnesota government. He served as State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, and chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Jack Bengtson, 90. Longtime teacher, coach, and school board member in the Mankato public schools.

George Poehler, 88. Owner of George’s City Meats in Nicollet.

Mary White, 87. One of the ten original founders of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), which was founded at Loretta’s Tea Room in South Minneapolis.

Karl Sassenberg, 87. He started at Blue Earth County in 1955 as an accountant in the welfare department, and retired in 1993 as the last Blue Earth County Treasurer to be elected to that office.

Art Petrie, 86. He dropped out of school at 16 to work the docks in Hoboken to help support his family. He enlisted during the Korean War, and a buddy convinced him to come to MSU for college since they would accept his GED. He didn’t complete college, either. He started his own insurance business and became the first Mankatoan to be named a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Round Table. Later he got into real estate, and developed Eastport in Mankato, Seward Square in Minneapolis, Colonial Square and the lower-campus redevelopment when MSU moved up the hill, and the Mankato Mall. He helped develop Mankato Rehabilitation Center and served as President of its Board and helped bring the Vikings training camp to Mankato. Later in life he moved to Las Vegas, where he continued to be active in business.

Dr. Vern Olmanson, 86. Upon completing his medical internship, he joined his father and brother at the St. Peter Clinic in 1960, where he worked as a family physician for 40 years.

Bill Savran, 84. He opened Savran’s Paperback Shop on the West Bank in Minneapolis in 1965, where it became a center writers and scholars in the Twin Cities. He and Bob Dylan were members of the same fraternity at UofM, and he served in the same platoon as Elvis Presley. He closed in 1987, driven out by national chains and rising rents.

Elaine Peterson, 84. For 40 years a presence at KEYC-TV (she said she did what she loved and “never worked a day”), she received State and national awards for her work.

Marian Anderson, 84. Mankato artist. Her work was commissioned by the National Wildlife Association, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the Boy Scouts of America. But she is best known for her many paintings commemorating local places and history.

Bill James, 83. A farmer, and for 32 years the Blue Earth County Recorder. He was the last one to be elected (the post is now appointed).

LaRoy Weibold, 80. Longtime Sheriff of Blue Earth County. Many of us got to know him—sometimes at the side of the road, perhaps more often at meetings in the community.

Lyle Jacobson, 79. CEO of Katolight in Mankato, he grew it from 54 employees to 350.

Russell Anderson, 78. Former Chief Justice of the MN Supreme Court.

Ali Khalif Galaydh, 78. Former prime minister of Somalia and Humphrey School faculty member, he raised his family in Minneapolis while traveling constantly—commuting, really—to Somalia as it developed democratic institutions after its civil war.

Joseph “DQ Joe” Galli, 77. Longtime owner/operator of DQ West, who gave many kids their first job (and many Westies their favorite treats).

Larry VanTol, 77. For more than 40 years, he owned and operated Hilltop Florist, with his first wife Noelle and his second wife Kathy.

Allan Fingerhut, 76. He came back from driving truck in Viet Nam and rather than go into the family online retail business he opened a rock music venue in an abandoned Greyhound bus depot in downtown Minneapolis. It came to be known as Fifth Avenue.

Jack Nawrocki, 75. President of the Mankato Area Chamber of Commerce, chair of the ACT 2000 committee, and for 8 years a Mankato City Council member.

Jim Ramstad, 74. Ten years in the MN Senate, 18 in the US House of Representatives. He was a champion for mental health and substance abuse recovery issues.

Steve Murphy, 71. Lead guitar for the Pacers and the Corvairs and the Epicureans and the Murphy Brothers Band. He was inducted into the Minnesota Rock and Country Hall of Fame, the Mid-America Music Hall of Fame, and the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.

Dave Pearson, 70. North Mankato City Councilman, he also served on the Boards of a number of community organizations.

Peter Ostroushko, 67. Celebrated fiddler, mandolinist and Minnesota music legend

Local

Schools—Gustavus

Paul Baumgartner, 91. Professor of music, he performed 4-hand piano with his wife, Helen, at concerts around the country.

Helen Baumgartner, 87. Professor of music, longtime violinist with the Mankato Symphony, and piano duettist with her husband, Paul.

Schools—MSU

Iver Johnson, 92. He taught Industrial Arts at the Wilson School and then at MSU for 25 years.

Ann Carlberg, 92. Librarian.

Howard Prouse, 91. Professor of Mathematics.

Geraldine Kline, 89. Professor of Business Communications at MSU for 35 years.

Roger Coomes, 88. Professor of Biology for 28 years.

Leonhard Mickelsen, 87. Professor of education (and barbershop singer)

Gordie Graham, 85. Head Athletic Trainer at MSU for 30 years, he established the athletic training program and served as Head Trainer for the Canadian National Team at the 1967 PanAm Games and the US team for the 1977 World University Games.

Kuhn Lee, 83. Director of the International Students Office, he founded the International Festival in 1976.

Burdette Carl Wheaton, 81. Professor of Mathematics

Paul Lindfors, 80. Professor of Electrical Engineering. He died of Covid.

Donna Rae Webb, 79. She worked in IT at MSU for 28 years.

Hal Walberg, 78. Professor Philosophy and longtime member of UUFM.

Mary Ellen (Kamas) Probst, 78. Human Resources office.

Sherry Folsom-Meek, 76. Professor of Adaptive Phys Ed.

Gerry Schneck, 72. For 30 years, professor of Rehabilitation and Vocational Counseling.

Donna Blom, 72. Longtime secretary for the faculty union, the IFO.

Richard “Dick” Kakeldy, 69. Longtime Mankato attorney, he was also a longtime adjunct faculty in Business Law.

Karl Matz, 64. Professor Education for 29 years.

Schools—SCC`

Harold Schuchard, 94. Founding chair of the Business Department.

Mary Buschkowsky, 83. Nursing instructor at SCC for 18 years.

Lyle Phelps, 81. Agribusiness and Farm Business Management instructor for 25 years.

Schools—Bethany Lutheran College

Norma Brown, 82. Head librarian at Bethany when she retired in 2000.

Schools—K-12

Eric Bartleson, 75. Superintendent for a number of school districts, including Mankato and Lake Crystal, and professor of education at MSU.

Michael Stewart, 74. East High Special Education teacher for 17 years.

UUFM Members, Relatives & Friends

Milburn Nelson, 93. Deanna Nelson's father.

Akira Kaneko, 93. Grandfather of Cheiron McMahon's daughter.

Roy Ganske, 89. Lee Ganske's uncle.

Charles Ellis Liesemeyer, 89. Keri Johnson's grandfather.

Jan Klages, 83. Our friend, greeter and longtime member.

Barbara Schweim, 83. Todd's mother.

Anthony Capezzi, 81—Rita's father

Maureen Stein, 72. Marlene Stein-Greiner's mother.

Michael John Freund, 55. Tamara Stoffel's brother.

Dustin Wiley, 38. Father of Joy, Allison, & Eli Wiley.

Aundrea "Ahni" Martino, 31. Lisa & Todd's daughter.

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

We Move into the Larger World with Renewed Commitment

Closing Song: One of the people who died this year was **Vera Lynn**, 103. Called "The Forces' Sweetheart," the British singer was best known for her patriotic songs during World War II, like *White Cliffs of Dover*, *We'll Meet Again* and *There'll Always Be an England*. She released a collections album in 2017 which was a #3 hit, making her the first centenarian performer to have a Top 10 album in the charts. She was appointed a Dame in 1975 for her charitable work. Let's listen to her performing for the troops. <https://youtu.be/T5C4meGkNyc>

Extinguishing the Chalice

Benediction (from Oedipus at Colonus, Sophocles):

“Now let weeping cease. Let no one mourn again. For all these things are in the hands of god.”