

# WOSA-NA Reunion 2003, July 11-14

*Manchester, Indiana, USA*

**“Learning At Woodstock: Then & Now”** was the focus of the 18<sup>th</sup> WOSA-NA annual reunion, this year held at Manchester College in the midst of the green Indiana countryside. Supremely organized by a local committee chaired by Helen Poong Smith '58, the reunion included ample time for socializing, shopping at the silent auction, and getting out into the Amish countryside, as well as engaging workshops, presentations, and other activities. Because of its location near Goshen, Wooster, and several other popular Woodstock destinations, there were many former staff there. Being able to visit with old teachers was a special treat for many.

The classes of 1943, 1958, and 1973 held reunions that were well-attended. Another special event was the unveiling of the class of '57's gift to the school, a beautiful peace sculpture by Jim Havens, which will be installed at the school in 2004.

Dr. Kiran Cunningham '79 set the stage with a keynote on experiential learning, followed by workshops that explored how Woodstock has provided and continues to provide unique opportunities for this kind of learning. Principal David Jeffery, for whom this was the first large reunion, addressed the group and was very well received. A short WOSA meeting saw David Scott '52 elected as President and out-going President Anne Lind commended for her strong leadership over the past

several years. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed a very tasty Indian Khana and Indian music performance by Allen de-Somer and Shree Pithadia. At the worship service, led by David Scott '52, \$3000 was collected for a health fair for the service employees and their families at Woodstock. This was followed by a recital by Lon and Kathryn Sherer, former staff, and then a series of activities, including square dancing, art, and games to keep us from our naps. On Sunday afternoon, many classes met together, some working to choose a class gift for the Woodstock 150 campaign. As evening fell on the closing talent show, many present commented on how well-planned and well-run this reunion had been, and how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Li Chu '59 reports: “Manchester was not at first an appealing site — after all, middle of July in Indiana? But the weather cooperated beautifully; helped in no small measure I'm sure by the torrential rains and flooding in that area (one saw tree tops surrounded by water approaching the airport for touch down in nearby Fort Wayne). And the campus is lovely and modern, with all rooms air-conditioned.

“An intentional attempt is being made to shift the emphasis at these reunions from nostalgic remembrances to focused learning about the current Woodstock. The theme this year was around experiential learning. For those of us not in the education field, this roughly means learning not only by books, but by participating actively in the learning process — what they are doing at Woodstock these days. There was a recital by Lon and Kathryn Sherer — remember



(l-r): David Warner '73, Margo Warner Curl '67, Jim Kersey staff, Jack Hinz staff, Cate Whitcomb '66 staff, and Lucy Wilson Dorenfeld '67.

them? — beautiful violin accompanied on piano, on a romantic theme — the Sherers, now retired from Goshen College, have performed together for 50 years!

“Attending this year was a Woodstock graduate of 1926 and many more former staff members than usual. The presence of David Jeffery, current Principal, was probably the draw — he was on a tour visiting 12 colleges with his son George who graduates next year. David's presentation was most eloquent, tracing Woodstock's substantial progress built upon the original planning efforts carried out under Bob Alter and Ron Flaming during their respective tenures as Principals. The mission envisioned and the lofty objectives set were approved and supported by Woodstock's Board of Directors and are now being transformed into reality through the financial support and dedicated labor and commitment of the Woodstock alumni and friends. When David completed his 20-minute talk, there was a standing ovation lasting at least five minutes. We were all most impressed and pleased with the current state of the School.

“A new feature of the reunion was a bazaar that allowed the alumni to display and offer the products of their many talents. It attracted a large audience demonstrating a great deal of interests. On a humorous note, Glenn Conrad ('68 and staff) offered authentic boiling hot Indian chai, complete with all the characteristic gestures, actions and voice of a genuine chai-walla!”



Five Principals (l-r): Dr LL 'Jim' Lehman, Rev Robert Alter '43, Mr Steve Root '43 (KIS), Mr David Jeffery, Rev WW Jones