



NewsLight

A newsletter for contributors and friends of the Virginia Community Foundation

Spring/Summer 2008

Vol. 13, No. 1

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NewsLight

NewsLight is the official semi-annual publication of the Virginia Community Foundation.

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Deb Luoma, Administrative Assistant

Questions, comments or donations may be sent to:
Virginia Community Foundation,
P.O. Box 559, Virginia, MN 55792
218-749-8239

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www.virginiafoundation.com

Join the fun!

Share your time. Share your talents.

Registrations are rolling in for the Great Virginia Get-Together, and planners are busy (very busy!) putting the final touches on an event-filled week. Celebration events are open to all VHS alumni and Virginia residents, current and past.

The week-long celebration has been planned and coordinated by volunteers, and now additional volunteers are needed to participate in and assist with events. If you have a talent to share or are willing to volunteer your time during the event, the

planning committee would like to hear from you. Residents and alumni are encouraged to sign up.

"This week is more than just a reunion. It is an opportunity for us to come together as a community, working side-by-side on an event that

will have a long-lasting, positive impact on Virginia's future," said Carol Sundquist, event chairwoman.

Here are some ways you can help.

Event volunteers:
Many events are

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The Great Virginia Get-Together
All-Class & Community Celebration *July 1-6, 2008

Belly up to Steve's burgers!

As part of the Great Virginia Get-Together, the Quad-Cities Rotary will recreate the historically popular Steve's Hamburger experience. Rotarians and staff from Virginia's Target store will cook and serve burgers just like Steve's, right down to the recipe and condiments (Steve never served catsup!). You'll find "Steve's Hamburgers" at his last location on Bailey's Lake (near the food co-op).



Message from the Chair



Since the Virginia Community Foundation's inception in 1990, many have come before me and served on this Board. I am

honored to be this year's Chair and am looking forward to continuing the mission set forth by the Foundation years ago – to continue to grow the permanent endowment for the betterment of our community.

With summer just around the corner, much anticipation is building for the upcoming "Great Virginia Get Together." It will be a time to reminisce with old friends, reconnect with family, and participate in many fun and exciting activities planned by the GVGTT committee, who have worked countless hours to make July

1-6 spectacular. The Foundation hopes it will be a truly memorable week for everyone.

For those of you who will be visiting Virginia for the first time in many years, we hope you will appreciate and recognize the efforts put forth by so many groups, individuals, and organizations throughout the community who have helped to preserve and continue to revitalize our community. Without the Foundation's support, many of these projects may not have been realized. That's why, every donation is important to the endowment – no matter how large or small. It all adds up!

The Foundation is currently focusing on the improvement of our downtown area and is working in conjunction with other city organizations, businesses, and government on this issue. Our

downtown is truly the "Heart" of Virginia and needs to be preserved for our future generations. Just imagine the possibilities if a designated fund were established for Chestnut Street? To become a designated fund through the Virginia Community Foundation requires \$10,000. Currently, our designated funds include the Blue Pride Fund, the Virginia Public Library Fund, and most recently, the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ and Virginia Education Funds.

The Board would also like to welcome new members, Jennifer Pontinen, Stephanie Arduser, and John Kohlhase to our Foundation family. If you would like any information on the Foundation, our volunteer opportunities, or a "wish list" of items needed for the Foundation office, please contact us at (218) 749-8239.

Your gifts are truly an investment in the future of our community.

Community Grants in Action

Plans are underway for Virginia's first mural in conjunction with the Great Virginia Get Together. The Virginia Mural Project is part of other long-range plans to improve the aesthetics of Virginia's downtown. Project leader and former foundation board member, Marieta Johnson, was successful in securing funds from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Grant Program. The foundation, local business owners, and the city of Virginia are joining forces to commemorate Virginia's history in the murals.

A foundation grant was recently awarded to replace the Chestnut Street



hanging flower baskets that bring a special touch of beauty to our downtown. The foundation also stepped forward to support the Imagination Library through the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. Virginia's children will be better prepared for kindergarten as a result of having access to books in their homes. Children up to five years of age are eligible to receive books each month.

Renovations to the B'nai Abraham Synagogue are progressing at a feverish pace. The Friends of the B'nai

Abraham Synagogue, a very dedicated group of volunteers, have restored the sanctuary/assembly hall and are also working on the lower level. Grants of \$210,000 from various sources and more than \$50,000 in personal contributions will enable the space to be readied for community use. President of the Friends group, Marjorie Ostrov, said that the Virginia Community Foundation grant of \$2500 aided in procuring additional grants from local and state agencies. The Virginia Area Historical Society will be assisting with management of the building as well as using the space for programming and exhibits.



Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



Front row: Deanne Polski, Stephanie Arduser, Linda Niskanen (Executive Director), Deb Luoma (Administrative Assistant), Brenda Suihkonen
Back row: Jennifer Pontinen, Keith Harvey, Micheal Appelwick, Donna Leese, Rudy Harvey, Brandon Seppala, John Kohlhase, Nancee Norri
Not pictured: Loy Gotham, Erik Peterson, Robert Prittinen

The Virginia Community Foundation would like to welcome three ambitious community volunteers to the Board of Directors.

John Kohlhase is a Virginia High School graduate and a second generation board member. John brings 25 years of advertising and marketing experience to the Virginia

Foundation Board. He is a partner of W.A. Fisher Advertising and Printing, and in addition he is serving on the advisory boards of Mesabi Range Community and Technical College and Hibbing Community College. John currently resides in Mt. Iron with his wife, Lynn, and their four children, Katy, Jake, Sarah and Josh.

Stephanie Arduser considers

Virginia “home”, although she is originally from Des Moines, Iowa. She and her husband, Paul, along with their two sons Avery and Tyson, moved to the area nine years ago. As a family, they were drawn to the area because of the quality of life, recreational activities and attention to family inherent in the community. Stephanie is employed with DeCare Dental and also sells real estate for Culbert Realty. She is actively involved with the schools and volunteers her time throughout the community.

Jennifer Pontinen is a recognized community leader and brings a variety of volunteer experience to the Virginia Community Foundation. Jennifer has been involved with community organizations including the Iron Range Economic Alliance, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Rotary Club, and East Range School to Work Tech Prep Partnership. She is a Business Consultant with the UMD Center for Economic Development and resides in Virginia with her husband, Todd, and their children.

The Virginia Community Foundation would like to applaud these individuals for their valuable time and commitment.

Foundation Office Gets Face Lift

Visitors to the Foundation office at 519 Chestnut Street will be surprised by a new look. Thanks to a generous donation of carpet from Floor to Ceiling, paint and supplies from Pohaki Lumber, and painting and repair done by board members and staff, the office has a fresh new look. The foundation board and staff are especially appreciative of Northern State Bank's continued donation of office space.



Crisis on Chestnut Street

With burnt out buildings, empty lots and vacant or under-utilized storefronts, the downtown of the Queen City has a king-sized problem. As Virginia plans its first all-class and community reunion this summer, organizers and City officials are well aware that returning alumni are going to be asking, "What has happened to our beautiful downtown?"

The problem is complex, and solutions are likely to be very expensive for a small town with a shrinking tax base. Most of the buildings downtown are more than a century old. As is the case with many communities our size, new retail development has taken place along major traffic corridors. Small, family-owned businesses downtown find it increasingly difficult to compete with national chain stores. As a result, downtown business owners are hard-pressed to invest in capital improvements to their businesses, including their aging buildings. In many cases, the costs of building improvements may exceed the value of the buildings.

To make matters worse, a number of fires including acts of arson, have gutted several of the old downtown buildings. Most of the burnt out buildings have been demolished, but the exposed walls of those buildings



One of the vacant lots on the 300 block of Chestnut Street

located adjacent to the empty lots are an eyesore, and the owners of those buildings can ill afford the tens of thousands of dollars required to resurface the walls. Of course, the best solution for the vacant lots would be the construction of new buildings to house thriving new businesses, but the move of the city's retail center to highway 53 and decades of marginal economic growth make new downtown developments unlikely in the immediate future.

As difficult as the downtown decay problem is, momentum is building to find and fund solutions. The Virginia Community Foundation is taking an active role. According to the Foundation's Chestnut Lots Committee chair, Brandon Seppala, "The goal of

the Foundation in regards to the downtown issue is to pull people together to turn things around." The Foundation will work with the City, the Virginia Eveleth Economic Development Agency and Virginia's business community to develop short- and long-term solutions and to raise funds necessary for improvements.

Although progress is being made, the need is great. The Virginia Community Foundation asks for your help.



The most recent site of a fire

According to Brandon Seppala, the Foundation is actively negotiating with the owner of a site that has long been referred to as a symbol of decay. In addition, the Virginia Mural Project is part of other long-range plans to improve the aesthetics of Virginia's downtown. Project leader and former foundation board member, Marieta Johnson, was successful in securing funds from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Grant Program. The foundation, local business owners, and the city of Virginia are joining forces to commemorate Virginia's history in the murals.

In order to address the long-term development of the City's downtown, the Foundation is researching the

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Farewell to Board Members

Board member service is a vital part of the Virginia Community Foundation. At year's end of 2007, we bid farewell to two individuals and thanked them for the dedication, guidance, and insight they both brought to the foundation during their eight years of service.

Jody Vest joined the Foundation in 1999 to donate her time and resources in a way that would impact the lives of Virginia residents. Through the years, Jody's expertise has been invaluable to the committees she has served on including chairing the grants committee, participating on the marketing committee, and



Jody Vest

accepting the leadership role of board chair. Jody has been instrumental in fulfilling the mission of the foundation while creating a lasting impact with her goodwill.

In 1999, shortly after returning to Virginia, Alicia Cope accepted a position on the Virginia Community Foundation board. Alicia's energy, enthusiasm, and ambition have been a tremendous asset to the board and the committees she has served. Alicia was involved in implementing the "We Believe" Campaign while serving on the marketing committee, as well as participating on the finance committee



Alicia Cope

and performing her role as board chair. Alicia has a true passion for Virginia. She believes "success enjoys company" and she attributes great things happening during her term because of that ambitious company.

In February, Bob Baldrice completed a four-year term on the foundation board, during which time he was active with planning the Foundation's golf events and the annual fall fundraisers. Karl Sundquist, a board member since 2004, left the board to focus on his young family and busy career. Bob and Karl plan to continue serving the foundation in other volunteer capacities.

The Virginia Community Foundation board would like to express their gratitude to Jody, Alicia, Bob and Karl for their years of leadership, commitment, and generosity.

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The Great Virginia Get-Together, Join the Fun

scheduled including a celebration parade, dance, lumberjack show, classic car show, outdoor movie, family activities at Olcott Park, a street dance, 5K run, golf and tennis events, and much more...and your help is needed. Opportunities to volunteer abound! Visitors and residents are welcome to help out. You can volunteer to assist with registration, V-store sales, picnic hosts, ushering, event set-up, clean-up, etc. Many hands make light work. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, contact Chris Springhetti, 218-741-1359.

The celebration marching band, concert band, orchestra or choir: All musicians and vocalists are welcome, those alumni who were in VHS music programs as well as Virginia residents (past and present) with musical talents. The Reunion Concert is on Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m. For more information on the musical events and schedules, please contact Bob or Barb Baldrice, 218-741-6070, baldrice@webtv.net

Garage Bands: On the evening of

Wednesday, July 2, Virginia will rock to the sounds of garage bands playing in garages and driveways throughout the town. You can pull together your old band or create a new one for this night of music for young and old. For more information or to register your band, contact Karl Sundquist, 218-741-2877, ksundqui@hotmail.com

Parade entries and volunteers:

On Friday, July 4, at 9 a.m., the Virginia Marching Blues and a reunion marching band will lead a patriotic Great Virginia Get-Together parade down Chestnut Street. Parade units from VHS reunion classes, community groups, businesses, individuals, etc. are invited to participate. For more information or to register your unit, contact Rudy Harvey, 218-741-2040, rharvey@qcfb.com

Neighborhood picnics: These picnics truly make this an all-community celebration, where friends, young and old, will enjoy meeting and reminiscing about good times in their Virginia neighborhoods. Picnics will be scheduled throughout the week for neighborhoods with a minimum of ten

registrants. Registrations received by June 17th will determine which neighborhoods qualify. A picnic schedule will be available at Registration Central. To volunteer as a picnic host or to assist with your neighborhood picnic, contact Kathryn Cremers, 218-741-8717, kathryn.cremers@afscmecouncil65.org

Call today!

Thank you for supporting this community-wide event!

The Great Virginia Get-Together Committee
Roz Whalen, Publicity Chair

The Great Virginia Get-Together: All-Class and Community Celebration is sponsored by the Virginia Community Foundation. For more information or to register, go to www.virginiafoundation.com.



Foundation's Family Grows with Two New Funds

Charter members of the Virginia Education Fund donated the initial investment to open the third designated fund of the Virginia Community Foundation. The fund is established to create community connections, enhance available resources, enrich experiences and provide the best educational opportunities for all students in Virginia's public schools. Donations to the Virginia Education Fund will be used specifically to support education at the Virginia Public Schools. Seventy percent of each contribution will go to their endowment fund and 30% of each donation will be available to meet current needs. Craig Nordling, a member of the organizing committee said, "The Virginia Education Fund is a vehicle for alumni and other interested people to provide additional support for Virginia's education system above and beyond what the normal tax-supported funding can provide."



Future leaders of the Virginia Education Fund

Virginia educators, students, parents and community partners will be encouraged to develop proposals for innovative learning opportunities for students.

Board members of Mesabi Range Youth for Christ have taken a giant step to ensure that area youth will be served into the future. The group secured contributions to establish a permanent endowment fund with the foundation. Donations to the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ Fund will be invested permanently and will generate income to be used specifically to support ministry to area youth. A gift to the Youth for

Christ Fund is an investment in the future of our community.

In addition to the two new funds, the foundation's family of named funds includes the Blue Pride Fund and the Virginia Public Library Fund. Gifts to the Foundation's general endowment will continue to support a broad range of community needs.

Donations to the general endowment or any of the named funds may be sent to the Virginia Community Foundation at PO Box 559, 519 Chestnut St, Virginia, MN 55792. Questions may be directed to (218)749-8239 or by email to director@virginiafoundation.com



Mesabi Range Youth For Christ

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Crisis on Chestnut Street

possibility of hiring a planning consultant to create a comprehensive development plan with a particular focus on the Chestnut Street and Silver Lake developments. The cost of the proposed plan is expected to exceed \$75,000.

Virginia alumni are stepping up to the plate to turn things around downtown. The Koski brothers, who built their fortune with a hardware

business in downtown Virginia, left their entire fortune of one million dollars to the Virginia Community Foundation with the expressed desire of improving the downtown of their beloved hometown. A more recent donor, who has requested anonymity, has offered \$50,000 to the Foundation with the condition that the money be used to improve the downtown.

Although progress is being made,

the need is great. The Virginia Community Foundation asks for your help. Please consider volunteering your time and/or making a donation to the Foundation to help us put the sparkle back in the crown of the Queen City. To find out how you can help, please call the Foundation at 218-749-8239.

Virginia Public Library Fund Contributions

(since our last newsletter)

Anonymous
Elizabeth Burge
Library Employees
In memory of Jean Prout
Bill & Deb McCormick
In memory of Ralph Harvey
Marcia Poarch
Township of Wuori
John & Virginia Trucano
In memory of Florence Konu
William & Barbara Vice
In memory of Florence M. Konu

Named Gifts

(since our last newsletter)

Bob & Barbara Baldrice
In honor of Marshall Johnson's retirement
Michael & Neysa Bonner
Holiday gift in honor of Elizabeth Bonner
Keith & Elizabeth (Bit) Clark
Holiday gift in honor of Mrs. Robert Bonner
Terry, Linda & Josie Hughes
In honor of the marriage of Dan & Rosemary Lynn
Peter & Colette Johnson
Holiday gift in honor of Peter G. & Marieta Johnson
Audra Keller
*Holiday gift in honor of friends Judy & David Adolfsen,
Sandy & Darrell Dankert, Fran Maher & Brian Coffey,
Colette & Peter Johnson, Karen & Leo Ducharme, Carol
& Jack Kaemper, and Judy Turner & Jack Elias*
John & Sue Kelly
Holiday gift in honor of Elizabeth Bonner
Eric & Lori Kishel
In honor of Dr. Gene & Brynbild Kishel
Chuck & Linda Niskanen
In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement
Jean & Joseph Rozinka
In honor of Florence Clark Tuomela
Robert & Beth Skalko
In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement
William & Marilyn Somero
*In honor of Carole & Dennis Hendricks' 25th
Anniversary*
Greg & Barb Thorne
*In honor of their three children attending Virginia
schools*
Phil & Mary Kay Troutwine
In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement

Virginia Education Fund

(since our last newsletter)

Virginia Askew	Willard & Arlien Miller
Paul & Laura Bachsneider	Brian & Julia Nordling
Tom & Tracy Baldrice	Criag & Beth Nordling
John & Murreta Beste	Bobby & Nancee Norri
Paul & Kathy Brinkman	John & Susan Pearsall
Gary Cerkvenik & Kim Stokes	Perpich TV & Music
Paul Cerkvenik & Kathleen Murray	Erik & Carol Peterson
Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson	Renold & Helen Pettinelli
James Cope	Mark & Patty Phillips
Gary & Tracy Cornell	Jerry & Tammie Pietrini
Dale & Kathryn Cremers	Kevin & Beth Pietrini
Tim & Kathi Croft	Polly Podpeskar
Frank & Peggy Fabish	Jim & Jeanne Prittinen
LeRoy Gerchman	Mike & Nancy Ralston
Patricia Hamalainen, In memory of Hershel Cope	Roger & Nancy Ralston
Keith & Laurie Harvey	Nancy Salmi
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	WA Fisher
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	Ed & Shelley Zeidler

Virginia Education Fund Gifts

(since fund was established December 14, 2007)

Mike & Debbie Appelwick	Andrew & Kathryn Peterson
Bill & Chris Culbert	Tim & Kathy Riordan
Greg & Jane Gilness	Robert & Beth Skalko
William & Judith Hafdahl	SOS Committee
Bruce & Holly Lundgren	Robert & Iris Teasck
Robert & Wendy McAllister	



Contributors to the Virginia Community Foundation

(contributions since our last newsletter)

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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(contributions since our last newsletter)

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Mike & Mary Madden	Kenneth Nielsen	Poppers Bar	Ron & Sandi Shoden	Chris & Jody Vest
Gary & Jean Majeski	Tony & Joyce Nigro	John Pouchnik	Lee & Louise Shoquist	Linda Viita
Charles & Bertha Maki	Brian Nordling	Peter Pozniak	Fred & Nancy Shusterich	Virginia Champion Auto Stores
Ernest & Marsha Maki	Bernice (Bunny) Norlander	Bob & Elaine Prittinen	April Sieler	Virginia Surplus
John & Jean Maki	Susan Norlander	Jim & Jeanne Prittinen	Silver Lake Floral Co	Martin & JoAnn Virshek
Kent & Nancy Maki	Nancee Norri	Julie & Mike Przybylski	Joe Simich	Rudolph Voxland
Lila Maki	North Country Heating & Cooling	Daniel Rabideaux	Ken Simonson	Jack & Violet Vuckovich
Lori Maki	Northeast Technical Services	Linda Rakovetz & Patrick Molick	Margaret Simonson	Alison Vuicich
Elizabeth Malsed	Northern State Bank	Roger & Nancy Ralston	Richard Sjoberg	Mary Walker
Linnea Manning	Sophie Novakovick	Greg & Rose Ranta	Rosalee Skaudis	Archie Ward
Don Manseau	Michael & Theresa Nystrom	Charles Rantala	Steve & Sue Skaudis	Cullen, Shannon, Will & Ava Warren
Jay Maratta	Lyle & Sue Okland	Robin Raplinger	Anita Skenzich & Joe Ahlin	Ken & Mary Waschke
Roberta Margo	Mary Ann Okoren	John Rekonen	James & Roberta Skinner	Jerry Wedge
Annette Mariucci	David Olivanti	Ada Renzaglia	Peter & Brenda Skorich	Weiberg's Campground & Landing
Sandra Markovich	Caroline Olson	Ronald Rhode	John & Susan Skube	RC & Maureen Weidner
Jerry & Darlene Marks	Mark & Donna Olson	Robert & Katherine Rice	James & Cynthia Skubic	Wells Fargo
Gilbert & Mary Marquis	Ray & Audrey Olson	Nancy Richter	Theodora Skubic	Betty Westby
Clifford Marwick	Al & Barb Omarzu	Tim & Kathy Riordan	Sam Slade	Bobbi & Ron Westerbur
Shannon Matteson	Dr. Charles & Marjorie Ostrov	Marion Rivard	Brenda & Timothy Slattery	Cindy Westin
Clarence & Mary Ann Mattson	Thomas & Barbara Pakkala	Brent & Kelly Robillard	Pat Sleeman	Margaret & Tom Wiklund
Robert Mattson	Jill Papin	Mary Ann & Richard Robinson	Jim & Jodi Smith	Mary Kay Wildes
Robert & Wendy McAllister	John & Jennie Parden	Ryan Rolando	Mark & Mary Jo Smith	Ron & Angie Williams
Virginia McBride	John Parise	Richard Romer	Julie Snodgrass	Margaret (Peggy) Wright
Edward McCall	Dorothy Parish	Marguerite Rooney	Joyce Snyder	George & Mary Yapel
Bill & Deb McCormick	Bruno Pazzelli	Maureen & Richard Rooney	Michael & Stacey Socha	John & Kathy Young
Burt McDermid	Marjorie Pearsall	Roger & Jean Rosandich	John & Gloria Softich	Leonard Youngman
John McKillop	Jan Pepelnjak	Mary Lou Roskoski	William & Marilyn Somero	Willie Spelts & Beth Carlson-Spelts
Tracy & John McMorro	Joyce Pepelnjak	Betty Rossman	Willie Spelts & Beth Carlson-Spelts	Jeff Spolar
Dixie Lorraine Meek	William N. & Julie Pepelnjak	Sharon Rowbottom	Jeff Spolar	Laverne Spolar
Aaron & Kris Mehrkens	Charles & Brenda Perpich	Byron & Luann Rowell	Laverne Spolar	Paul & Annalisa Starkovich
Steve & Pat Meinzer	Linda & David Peters	Tina Royer	Paul & Annalisa Starkovich	Luke Stevens
Diane & Rick Melander	Darryl & Diane Peterson	Mark & Mary Rozier	Luke Stevens	Emil & Bernice Stimac
Jean Mell	Erik & Carol Peterson	Jean Rozinka	Emil & Bernice Stimac	
William & Helen Mell				

Memorials

(since last newsletter)

In memory of Dr. Hershel Cope

Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson
in memory of Grandpa (Hershel) Cope

Amelia, Sydney, Rory & Nolin Cope-Robinson
in memory of Great Grandpa (Hershel) Cope

Andrew, Kathryn & William Peterson
in memory of Grandpa Cope

From his "neighbor kids",
Bill Koski, Don Koski, Janet Koski, Carolyn Olsen

Phil & Eleanor Anshus, Brian & Robin Aronen, Juliane Badanjak, Steve & Jennifer Bonner, Gary Carlson, Joseph & Katheran Caulfield, Chestnut Collision Center, Cope & Peterson Employees: Karen, Merella, Jo, Kim G., Marla, Carleen and Ronda, Dale & Kathryn Cremers, Jim Grummett & Janet Eichholz, Ray & Linda Erickson, Lucille Fiola, Donovan & Kathy Frank, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, Attorneys at Law, Luan Gentilini, Gary & Kaye Giroux, Loy Gotham, Marguerite Grams, Edward & Maureen Gregorich, Larry & Barbara Groves, George & Phyllis Harvey, Peter J. & Colette Johnson, Arthur & Judy Jytyla, Margaret Kajala, Dan & Shelby Karakas, Mike & Nancy Kearney, Mark & Donna Leese, Ray & Deb Luoma, Susan Marvel, John & Tracy McMorrow, James & Christine Nelson, Chuck & Linda Niskanen, Bobby & Nancee Norri, Judy Norri, Joe & Dana Pahkala, Dorothy Parish, Julie Staver & John Pepelnjak, Dr. Duane & Mary Person, Carol & Courtney Peterson, Erik & Carol Peterson, John & Carol Peterson, Jeff & Kathleen Petrack, Jerry & Paulette Pfremmer, Mark & Patty Phillips, Tom Butorac & Deanne Polski, Bob & Elaine Prittinen, Jim & Jeanne Prittinen, Mary Ann & Richard Robinson, Ryan-Kasner-Bialke LLC, Tony & Kathy Sacchetti, John (Jack) Skoog, Mike & Vicki Skubic, Mindy Edelstein Sloo, Don & Pam Stauty, Roger & Brenda Suihkonen, Scott Swanson & M.J. Dempsey-Swanson, Michael Swor, Ron & Jackie Walkky, Scott & Cheryl Weappa, and Rosella Wolfe

In memory of Ralph Harvey

Bob & Barbara Baldrice, Ruth Harvey, Ralph's Friends & Family, Mike & Nancy Kearney, Sharon Lager, Barbara Lundberg, Todd & Wanda McGillivray, A. Russell & Gayle Miller, Linda & Chuck Niskanen, Bobby & Nancee Norri, Judy Norri, H. Jeffrey & Nancy Peterson, Tony & Kathy Sacchetti, Peter & Brenda Skorich, and Roger & Brenda Suihkonen

Jean Abramson in memory of
Dr. & Mrs. Don Rautio (Faye Tritchler) class of 1960

James & Audrey Amundson
in memory of Barbara Agamenoni Wiklund

James & Mary Anderson
in memory of Robert R. Leiviska and Thomas R. Reagan

Brian & Robin Aronen
in memory of Hugo Aronen and Karen Saxhaug Walden

Lloyd & Donna Bachman in memory of Mabel A.
MacKenzie

Bob & Barb Baldrice in memory of
Bill Geiselman, Mary Raukar, and Marlyne Morris

Nicole Belpedio in memory of
Isaac Zupetz and Brian Erickson

Dawn Berg in memory of John J. Haataja
Maggie Bezek in memory of Stanley Bezek, Sr.

Biss Lock, Inc. in memory of Dick Lepisto

The family of Mike & Sue Blaeser
in memory of Elizabeth Wernecke

Kathryn Alar Blanchard
in memory of brothers & sisters Emil Alar, Peter Alar,
Mary Alar Mastnik, and Mandy Alar Johnson

Steve & Jennifer Bonner in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Dan & Susan Branstad in memory of Vic Lager

The Broughton Group-M.Lynch in memory of Pat Foschi

Norman Carlson in memory of Bill Geiselman

Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson in memory of
Grandma (Dorothy) Dargan and Helen Ahlstrand

John & Linda Cope in memory of Helen Ahlstrand

Kathryn DeLuca in memory of Rudy DeLuca

Ray & Linda Erickson in memory of Mille Kirsch

Gary, Linda, Giles, Evan & Jace Friedlieb
in memory of Pat Foschi

Lois Geiselman in memory of Bill Geiselman

Jack & Carolyn Gentilini
in memory of Stella Plotnik and Felicia Matkovich

"From her family" Mike & Melissa Hahne, Samuel Slade,
James Hahne, and Mary Terch
in memory of Sally Hahne Slade

Mary A. Harrington, Joseph D. Harrington, John M.
Harrington, Thomas P. Harrington, Margaret Harrington
Conroy, Mary E. Armstrong, and Paul A. Harrington
in memory of Charles P. Harrington

Ed & Cora Hawkinson
in memory of Herbert "Hubba" Lind

Bob & Dawn Heisel in memory of Robert Nelson

Jerry & Kay Elias Helgeson
in memory of Don & Faye Rautio

Gladys Helland
in memory of Barbara Agamenoni Wiklund

Virginia Hokkanen in memory of Roy Hokkanen

Marlene Jarvi
in memory of her parents, Duke & Flo Oklobzija
Michael & Dawn Johnson in memory of Elda Pappone

Peter G. & Marieta Johnson
in memory of Stanley Bezek, Sr.

Greg Johnson, M.D. in memory of Mary Segog Dean
Raymond & Ruth Jokinen in memory of Florence Konu

Memorials

(since last newsletter)

Harriet S. Joseph in memory of Irene Schibel, David Schibel,
and Rita Schibel Marks

Lyle & Marilyn Kiral
in memory of Ermi (Maki) Pesola Ronbuck

Donald & Shawna Kishel in memory of Rudy DeLuca

Sharon Lager in memory of J. Victor Lager,
Elizabeth Thompson, and Helen Ahlstrand

Mark & Donna Leese in memory of Phyllis Tekautz

Ernest & Marsha Maki
in memory of Marie Hejda and Jedson Hejda

Mary Ann Nelimark in memory of Dr. D.R. Nelimark

Judy Norri in memory of Ed Dummer

Shirley S. Olson in memory of Herbert "Hubba" Lind

H. Jeffrey & Nancy Peterson in memory of Helen Ahlstrand

Barbara Politano in memory of Stella Plotnik

Brandon, Heather, Ali, Brady, & Ava Seppala
in memory of Grandma (Dorothy) Dargan

Pete Bertolas/Ski View, Inc. in memory of Betty Bertolas

Mike & Vicki Skubic in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Theodora Skubic in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Robert & Christine Springhetti in memory of Francis Ferguson

Roger & Brenda Suihkonen in memory of Karen Saxhaug
Walden, Helen Ahlstrand, and Eleftheria "Lefty" Demorlis

Robert & Iris Teasck
in memory of their parents Teasck & Whitmarsh

Bob & Lois Vidmar in memory of Bob Plunkett class of 1963

Cheryl & Scott Weappa in memory of Ben Stavseth

Don & Karen Welander
in memory of August Gentilini and Creighton Koski

Al & Mary Williams in memory of Lucille O'Malley

Crown Jewel Donors

(new or cumulative gifts since last newsletter)

Ruby Givers \$500 to \$999

Elizabeth Burge
Matilda Byrne
Dale & Kathryn Cremers
Myra DeByle
Mike & Melissa Habne
Patricia Hamalainen
Richard & Nancy Harvey
John & Shannon Malovrh
Richard & Marlys Olson
John & Susan Pearsall
Mike & Nancy Ralston
Karl & Mary Lou Sharp
Dr. Don & Joann Sipola
Michael & Gail Swor

Emerald Givers \$1,000 to \$4,999

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Tom & Tracy Baldrice
Coates Plaza Hotel
Jeff Collie & Kerry Waschke-Collie
Fortune Bay Resort Casino
Ruth Harvey
Keith & Laurie Harvey
David & Jeanette Johnson
Eric & Lori Kishel
Chuck & Linda Niskanen
Craig & Beth Nordling
Polly Podpeskar
Patrick Roche
Roger & Brenda Suihkonen

Diamond Givers \$5,000 & above

Short Stop Stores
UBS Financial

We appreciate gifts of all sizes – Thank You!

These lists have been prepared with care, but if your name has been omitted or is in error,
please inform us of the oversight in order that we may correct our records.

Yes, we believe in building the health and vitality of Virginia!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date _____ Phone _____

- Check here for a change of address.
- Send me information about Automated Giving.
- Send me information about establishing a fund in my name or my family's name.
- Send me information about how to leave a bequest to the Virginia Community Foundation.
- Have a foundation representative call me.

I hereby pledge a sum of \$ _____
payable annually or as follows: _____

Donation enclosed _____

Charge my major Credit Card:
No. _____
Expiration Date: _____

Bill me: _____

My gift is in memory/honor (please circle one) of:



make checks payable to:
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Foundation**

P.O. Box 559
519 Chestnut Street
Virginia, MN 55792

(218) 749-8239

www.virginiafoundation.com

Register today!

Register by June 10th and receive a 20% V-Store discount coupon. The reunion V-Store will be located at Reunion Central and stocked with t-shirts, hoodies, polos, flip flops, tote bags....and much, much more! You can select items with our new reunion logo or enjoy an item with a new Virginia light standard logo. There is something for everyone!

To register, go to www.virginiafoundation.com, pick up registration forms at the Virginia Public Library or the Foundation Office at 519 Chestnut Street, or call 218-749-8239.

**Alumni attending class gatherings must register no later than June 21 to allow ample time for meal planning.*

Registration Includes:

- Reunion commemorative wristband & registration bag
- Admission to all reunion events
- Prime seating at all events (while space allows)
- Outdoor movie at Ewens Field
- Saturday evening concert
- Two Saturday evening dances
- Business Give-aways to those wearing the commemorative wristband
- Free Quad Cities Optimal Fitness aerobic classes throughout reunion week
- Class gathering meal with alumni package*



The Great Virginia Get-Together
All-Class & Community Celebration *July 1-6, 2008

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