

PRESENTERS (in alphabetical order)

Joel Bjerkestrand, '65

Pastor Joel Bjerkestrand was born of missionary parents in India, attended Woodstock School 1953-58, and moved to Illinois at age twelve. He graduated from high school in Peoria, Ill., and gained a B.A. degree from Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he met his wife, Sue. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Joel and Sue have two grown children, six grandchildren, and three bonus grandchildren, all living in the Phoenix area. Sue retired in 2013 as a third grade teacher at North Ranch elementary school in the Paradise Valley School District. Pastor Joel served one congregation in California and three in the Phoenix area before retiring from full-time ministry after 32 years. In 2011 he began his work at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church in Scottsdale as Visitation Pastor, and also teaches Sunday morning adult education classes, preaches occasionally, and is frequently invited to speak to groups within the congregation. He became a certified life coach and was also an adjunct professor at Western International University for six years. Through his *On the Way Ministry*, Pastor Joel officiates at weddings and funerals for those who don't have a church home/pastor.



Robert Bonham, '59

A renowned pianist, Mr. Bonham is professor emeritus of Maryville College where he taught piano and classes that ranged from world music and art history to experiential courses focused on enhancing creativity and wellness. He is a founding member of the faculty of the Keyboard Wellness Seminar (now in the 21st year devoted to sustaining and promoting the insights of Dorothy Taubman). Trillium, his piano-violin-cello trio present concerts nationally. Robert also offers a variety of workshops to enhance wellness and performance, and enjoys leading groups to explore India or sail on a catamaran on the Greek seas.



Sami DiPasquale, Staff

Sami DiPasquale lives with his family in El Paso, Texas where he serves as the Executive Director of Abara, a nonprofit working on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Sami was born in Jordan and also lived in Cyprus, Egypt and India. He holds a BA in Sustainable Development (interdisciplinary) and an MBA with a concentration in International Business. Sami has spent the last 22 years immersed in refugee and immigrant communities in the US - working in refugee resettlement, community development, and most recently with Abara, which seeks to inspire connections beyond borders, invite groups for educational experiences, and support



migrant shelters for asylum seekers. Currently Abara is developing a 4-acre campus. The center sits on a historic river crossing that is located directly on the border fence and will incorporate a café, event space, marketplace, commemorative pathways, chapel, guesthouse, and a history & cultural arts center. In response to global migration, Abara inspires connections through mutual understanding, education, and meaningful action in pursuit of narrative, systems, and personal change. In the tradition of global peace builders who have embodied the strength of nonviolence, we envision a global beloved community flourishing through justice, peace, healing, and transformation.

Carmina (Peggy) Jenks, Staff

Carmina received her B.A. in Music Ed. (1970) from The College of Wooster and M.A. in Mus. Ed. from Northwestern University (1974). She and Peter taught at Woodstock from 1970-1979. She conducted the Band, Choir, and taught general music. Carmina studied Indian music with Mr. Masih and Doris Dutta. Their sons, Rob and Daniel, were born in Landour Community Hospital. In 1980, the Jenks' moved to Kodaikanal International School. Carmina discovered composition and has written 13 musicals plus many songs and anthems. In 1993, they taught at the International School of Luxembourg where Carmina was head of the Music Department. In 2007, the Jenks went to Winston Salem, NC. Carmina taught private piano, voice, and brass instruments at Jackson's Music and directed church music, occasionally playing percussion in a community band. From 2014-2017, she received certification in Piano Technique for Wellness and Injury Prevention at Salem College, was the Director of the College Community Music School, and taught a piano class. In 2017, Carmina retired and founded the Shepherd's Center Singers, and in 2019, she received the North Carolina State Governor's Award for Group/Team Volunteerism. This is the sixth time Carmina has led the FWS Alumni Choir.



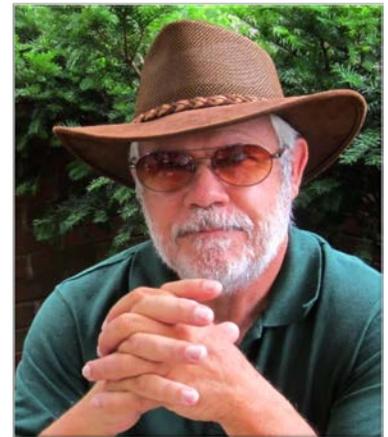
Pavel Kapinos, '95

Pavel Kapinos is an economist at Amazon.com. He has previously worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and taught economics at Carleton College. He earned a PhD in economics and a Master's degree in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as a U.S. High School Diploma from Woodstock School (Eclipse '95). Pavel is married with three children. He is half-Russian, half-Ukrainian and grew up in Moscow, Russia, making multiple visits to his grandparents and aunt in Lviv, Ukraine.



Max Marble, '67

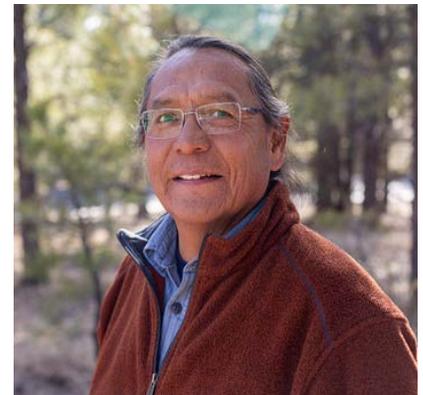
Max Marble '67 attended Woodstock K-12 while his parents were Methodist missionaries in Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. After graduate school, he served the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church for 40 years. During the last 17 years of that service, he organized volunteer mission trips all around the world. He and his wife Sally took several groups to Woodstock for volunteer projects. Between 2012 and 2018 Max and Sally traveled to Ludhiana, India twice a year and often stopped to volunteer at Woodstock for a week or two.



After retirement he served as Executive Director of the Ludhiana Christian Medical College Board USA for 7 years until he retired again to take care of Sally who was undergoing treatment for cancer. Sally died of colon cancer in 2019. Max sold his house and moved fulltime into his VW Campervan and serves on United Methodist NOMADS projects across the US. He also visits family and friends along the way. Last year, he visited 22 of his Woodstock classmates and schoolmates. Many know Max through his beautiful In Memoriam videos, his work with the FWS Alumni Committee, and this year's Local Planning Committee. He posts his travel videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/Video73333/videos>

Jon Martin, '79

Jon Martin holds an MS (1992) and a BS (1985) in Forestry from Northern Arizona University. He is the Director of the Ecological Restoration Institute, Native American Forest and Rangeland Management Program at NAU. He has specialized experience as a Certified Silviculturalist, National Environmental Policy Act; Wildland and Prescribed Fire, Reforestation; Fire Effects Monitoring Federal Indian Policy; Tribal Consultation Inter-agency Coordination; and Data Inventory and Analysis Natural Resources Management Planning and Implementation. Mr. Martin has spent the last 30 years in natural resource management on tribal lands throughout the Southwest. Having served as a regional level manager, Jon knows the federal mandates and requirements of program planning and implementation. He has interacted with most federal resource management agencies within the region and knows the challenges of pursuing sound management of tribal resources. In Jon's words, "When I am not working, I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, skiing, and rafting the canyons and rivers of the Western USA. My passion for the outdoors and management of the forests was definitely inspired by my Woodstock experience and the time I spent trekking in the Himalaya of India and Nepal."



Michael Singh, '71

Michael Singh grew up in the Punjab and at Woodstock School. He studied Indian history at the University of Chicago, and filmmaking at USC's Division of Cinema-TV in Los Angeles. As an actor, he played Mr. Patel in the hit production of Trevor Griffith's "Comedians" at the Wisdom Bridge Theatre in Chicago. He is now a documentary filmmaker in Massachusetts. His award-winning documentary "Valentino's Ghost: Why We Hate Arabs and Muslims," made its world premiere at The Venice Film Festival, where it received a standing ovation. It is designated a New York Times CRITICS' PICK and was called "the decade's most important film" by The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. He has written, produced and directed award-winning Sikh-centric documentary shorts, such as "Prisoner's Song," "Rebel Queen," "The Visionary," and "Uncommon Ground." Michael was Senior Producer/Writer for Discovery's Health channel's reality TV series "Chicago's Lifeline," where his episodes won two national media awards for Best Science Series. He is currently completing "Riding the Tiger," his personal account of one of the massacres of Sikhs in 1984, which he audio-recorded. He is also making short films for the Princeton Arts Society and is restoring his 1750's Colonial farmhouse.



Rana Singh Sodhi

Hailing from the Punjab, Rana Singh Sodhi and two brothers moved to the US after the unrest following the assassination of India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. On September 15, 2001, a white supremacist gunned down Rana's brother Balbir Sodhi outside Balbir's gas station in Mesa, Arizona, for wearing a turban. And 10-months later, his other brother, Sukhpal Singh Sodhi, was killed in his taxicab in San Francisco. The perpetrator and motive are still unknown. These deaths led Rana on a mission dedicated to eradicating ignorance in America about Sikhs. He has shared his story all over the country, hoping to prevent further violence rooted in cultural stereotyping. Several documentary films have featured him and his activism. After the 15th anniversary of Balbir's death, Rana spoke directly with his brother's killer, who is currently serving time. That powerful, recorded conversation played across the globe. In 2014, Rana spoke at the 5th anniversary of the Shepherd Byrd Hate Crime bill in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Sikh Advisory Council for the Phoenix Police Department and is a key diversity speaker for the U.S. Department of Justice, among other roles. In 2022, Rana was invited to the United We Stand Summit at the White House, where President Biden recognized him for his ongoing activism and commitment to multicultural understanding and forgiveness. Currently residing in Mesa, Arizona, with his wife and three children, Rana is also an entrepreneur and owner of a local restaurant, Guru Palace Cuisine of India.



Beth Anne and Greg Wray, '78

Greg Wray was born in Bareilly (then U.P.), and Beth Jacober Wray was born in Landour Community Hospital in Mussoorie. Both of their parents were missionaries to India, and they met in Kindergarten at Woodstock. Though they lost touch in 1973 when Beth's parents were transferred to Israel, they reconnected in 2008 at a Class of '78 reunion. Greg is a professor of biology at Duke University in North Carolina; and Beth is a retired teacher of English, ESL, and Spanish. He loves wildlife, especially birds; and she loves iPhone travel photography. Married for 12 years, they have been making up for lost time by exploring the world together. They went back to India together three times and have visited these other places as well: Singapore, Cambodia, Nepal, Tanzania, South Africa, Morocco, Malta, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, England, Sweden, Iceland, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and Peru. Many more trips are in the works, and they are open to suggestions!

