



**Samaritan Counseling Center  
Biographies of Leadership**

**Social Gathering  
July 27, 2016  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**



“Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no-one alive who is you-er than you!” Dr. Seuss

I am a wife (for 50 years in August), mother of 2 daughters (and 2 son-in-laws), and grandmother of 5. These people are the center of my universe.

For 25 years I worked in sales at Gehl Company (farm equipment manufacturing) in West Bend, WI and left there as Sales Distribution Manager to pursue a business of my own. My business partner and I started manufacturing septic hauling tanks and my employees were a team of workers that had been let go after the closure of Badger Northland in Kaukauna. They knew how to build tanks and I had the sales and business background. That was in January 1996. We operated until the spring of 2005. The market was becoming extremely competitive and we decided to sell our assets and downsize to a smaller business. Because we had some knowledge of septic, we decided to build ourselves a truck and buy some portable toilets and went into the porta potty service business. (Not very glamorous) And if you must know YES, I did service porta potties. We sold the business at the end of 2014. So I have formally been retired since then.

I have been working since 2009 as treasurer for our church. I play in our chime choir and am part of our vocal choir.

While I was operating my business I learned that one of my employees had never learned to read. He explained that he had been pushed through school without anyone taking the time to work with him, so I offered to tutor him and watched him blossom. As a result of that experience I saw an ad in the paper for the Appleton Area School District looking for volunteer tutors for their United for Reading Service Program which tutors 1<sup>st</sup> graders in reading and I signed up - that was 13 years ago and I am still at it.

I became involved with Samaritan in 2013 when the suicides in Kaukauna were prevalent. The very first young man to die by suicide was the nephew of my business partner and the rest is history. I am proud that our church stepped up to provide a place for counseling, I believe in the healing touch Samaritan can offer and am honored to be a part of helping to reach our goals to connect mind and spirit so individuals, families, organizations and communities thrive.

Mary Beduhn

I am **Rosangela Berbert**, am 52 years young, married to Otacilio (“O”, to make it easier...), who has been the only boyfriend I ever had and we have been together since 1979!! We have two biological daughters (Mariana – 27 and Miriam -22). Mariana is married and takes after me, having a passion for people and art. Miriam takes after her father and will graduate as a chemical engineer in December.

I also have a ‘heart-daughter’, as I like to call her. Her name is Carla and she came to us as a foster child at age 12, just as I learned I was pregnant with Mariana. It was a fun ride to have a newborn baby and a tween I had not raised at the same time... Carla now is 39, she lives in Brazil and has given us 2 beautiful grandchildren: João and Isabela. We really feel sorry that we cannot be there to spoil them as any decent grandparents should do...

Our family moved to Wisconsin in 2002 because my husband was brought to work at Bemis on a 2 year contract... As you see, things didn’t go as originally planned... and we love it, in spite of how much we miss our families in Brazil.

Before moving here, I was a psychologist working as a chaplain in a large school run by the Presbyterians in a city called Londrina (‘Little London’). What many people did not know then and certainly don’t know now is that when I was working at that school I was a puppeteer and the actual ‘heart and soul’ of a puppet called Popcorn. At one point, Popcorn was more well-known than me!

Moving to Oshkosh was the biggest adventure of my life, after having my first child. It is not an easy task to redefine your identity in a new country. Can you imagine me not being able to talk like I do now? The worse part was that I could not get the jokes in English!

Finding the Samaritan Center was the biggest gift of this life changing adventure of moving to the USA. I joined Samaritan as an intern in 2005 and figured that the spiritually integrated counseling we do here is what I was called to do in life! My husband says this is the actual reason God brought us here... he is a man of great faith!

Well, here’s a few more things you may not know about me: I love to cook, especially Brazilian food, of course! I like pretty much any kind of visual arts and once in a while I like to paint and draw. I also can sew fairly well and saved a bundle making all sorts of fun outfits for my daughters, including prom dresses and fun costumes. Many years ago I used to illustrate materials for my church’s children’s ministry, and one time I illustrated a book that was actually published.



I am member of the First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh, where I have served as deacon and elder. I am a trained ruling elder, what means I am a ‘lay minister’ in the Presbyterian church (that takes me full circle back to being chaplain at one point... as a woman, I could not be a minister in Brazil, so that was the closest I could get...).

Well, now you know more about me!



I was born in Neenah and graduated from Appleton East. While I spent a majority of my life in the Fox Cities / Green Bay areas, I did spend a few years each in Brodheadsville, PA (3 years during high school), La Crosse, WI (5 years for undergrad) and Houston, Texas (3 years for law school).

Over the years I have had many different jobs/internships – some of these jobs included delivering newspapers in Middle School, working at a pharmacy in High School, working as both a bank teller and a compliance intern during undergrad, and working at both the US Attorney’s Office – Fraud Division and Securities and Exchange Commission during law school.

I graduated from UW-La Crosse with a triple major in finance, economics and accounting. I then went straight to South Texas College of Law where I graduated summa cum laude. I currently work as an attorney and CPA at Remley & Sensenbrenner, a law firm located in downtown Neenah. My practice areas are estate planning, probate, real estate, business and tax. The best part of my job is truly being able to help people in what is sometimes either their hardest or most exciting times of their lives.

I enjoy spending my free time outside. I am an avid hunter and fisherman. I also enjoy camping and doing projects around the yard and house. Fall is by far my favorite time of year – it doesn’t get much better than football season and bow season in my mind.

One thing most people do not know about me is I had the opportunity to interview with CIA during law school. It was a really neat experience that included flying out to Washington DC and interviewing with two agents (who could only identify themselves as Agent K and Agent M). While I didn’t get the internship, it was still an experience I will never forget.

In addition to Samaritan, I am also a member of Business Network International – Fox West Chapter (Greenville), the United Way – Emerging Leaders group and PULSE – Young Professional Network. I have met some incredible people during my short times with all these organizations and look forward to continuing to meet more!

-Matt Brehmer



Let me introduce myself. I'm a life-long Wisconsinite, born and raised in Grafton, approx. 20 miles north of Milwaukee. I'm the third son of my parents (who are still living as I type this) out of four total. I attended Catholic grade school (through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). It was there where I learned the "3 R's" and still lean on this strength today. I graduated from Grafton HS, lettering in 4 sports (cross country, basketball, golf, and baseball). I attended Lawrence University my freshman year in college, then transferred to UW-Eau Claire, where I met my wife Amy (of 36 years and counting) and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science (point of reference: my first computer program was printed on punch cards).

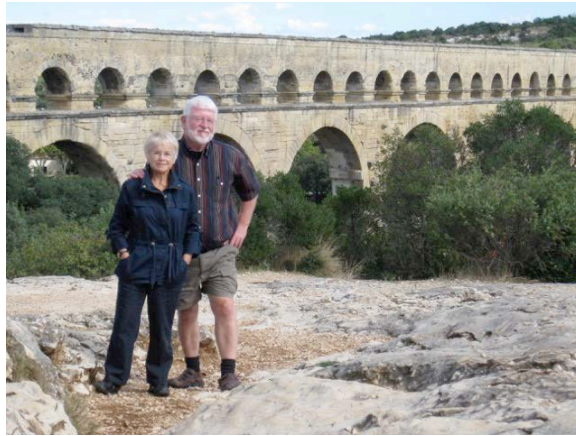
My occupational path has taken me from the IT world to banking to finance/accounting. The industries and places I've worked have spanned the spectrum – for-profit, non-profit, public, private, large, small, successful and not-so-successful. I've been recruited and fired, have had positions created for me and have been "downsized". I like to think that I've learned something from each of my work experiences, and try to bring those learning points to every "work situation" I encounter.

I devote a considerable amount of time to being the best son/husband/father I can be for my family, and in maintaining my health (as best as I can). I enjoy golfing, running, hiking, biking (occasionally), and general "working out". I am a sports fan and work to keep up on and watch the major happenings of the sports world. I also enjoy listening to all types of music (except "country" ☺ ) and reading.

When I entered the finance/accounting world (circa 1994), my family (3 children – 2 boys, 1 girl; all 3 now happily married) and I moved to the Fox Cities, settling in Greenville. It was at this time that I began my community volunteer life, becoming a member of one of the United Way-Fox Cities' allocation subcommittees. It was here that I learned of the various non-profit agencies of the Fox Cities. I've volunteered with the local chapter of the American Red Cross, Hortonville Area Education Foundation, Fox Cities YMCA, The Building For Kids Children's Museum, Riverview Gardens, First Presbyterian Church-Neenah, as well as the Samaritan Counseling Center. I find I receive more from these experiences that I've given, primarily due to the wonderful people I encounter.

I am grateful for the life I live today – for my family, the friends and neighbors we are surrounded with, and the resources we have at our disposal. My faith is my "gyroscope" and am humbly grateful for God's love and grace each and every day.

Gary Cebulski



I'm Jack Fry. Some may know I served on the SCC Board for nine years, beginning when Amy Bertschausen discovered I was retiring and figured I wouldn't have anything to do. That was long enough ago to see a fine organization with a long history, dedicated employees, and sometimes less than zero money grow and grow and improve and improve.

After growing up in Michigan, I was lucky enough to trick a beautiful and brilliant woman way beyond my expectations into marrying me. Marcy and I immediately left for Kenya for two and a half years' of teaching in a girls school as Peace Corps Volunteers (we'll make our first return trip in January). For us, Peace Corps really was "the toughest job you'll ever love" and great fun.

While there, we visited much of Kenya (on our very small motorcycle) and neighboring countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia. While in Ethiopia, I managed to get myself kidnapped by the Eritrean Liberation Front and held for a week or so - tense at the time, but mostly just a good story this many years on. I also played hooker on our local sports club rugby team.

Somehow, I lucked into a wonderful job in Menasha at the public library and liked it so much I stayed for a career. Now retired, I'm finally getting a chance to do some reading, which has been a great pleasure. Another retirement activity has been to substantially up my game as a birder: an occasional activity has become a major time consumer.

Marcy and I have two daughters, both married and one with three children. We still live in Menasha and love it. Add travel, canoeing, and grandchildren and our time is well-occupied. We're members of the United Church of Christ of Neenah-Menasha.



Who am I? I am a mother of two, I have a son, Brian, 27, who is married and works in IT. My daughter, Chelsea, is 28, lives in Madison and manages a temporary staffing agency. I have one granddaughter, Millie, who is 9 months old. Larry & I have been happily married for 32 years working towards 33 in October. Still haven't gotten to Hawaii for an anniversary yet . . .

I have been working in Human Resources for 35 years in a variety of organizations; from health care to game publishing; from non-profits to manufacturing. It was always a challenge to explain to my kids, as they were growing up, what I did in Human Resources. My husband is a school principal. That job they understood. But Human Resources? What is that? So, I would just say that I helped people. Sometimes I would help people find jobs with our company, sometimes I would help people leave our company because of bad choices they made. Either way, it's important to treat people with respect and dignity. Surprisingly, my daughter followed me in the HR field and works in Madison. When she was going to school, she would ask me, "Why should I go into HR? Everybody hates HR!" I would compare my job to my husband's in that companies need people who oversee and ensure that rules are being followed and people are treated with respect. I'm not sure if I failed or succeeded in her following in my footsteps! Haha

My hobbies include crafty things. I like to sew and garden. I used to make my kids clothes. Now I just make them blankets. I also tend to my perennial gardens and annuals. For food gardening, I only grow cherry tomatoes.

One thing you may not know about me is that I used to work for the company that makes "Dungeons and Dragons". This was a small company in Lake Geneva, WI, that created the fantasy role-playing game. I am not a gamer, but I hired game writers, artists, and editors. If you watch the Big Bang Theory, they'll talk about "Gary Con". That is a gaming convention named after Gary Gygax who was the president of that company and founder of "Dungeons and Dragons". We held a gaming convention every year in either Lake Geneva or Kenosha. One time, Gary had the brilliant idea of having me set up a recruitment booth at the convention. Gamers would come up to my table and ask me what game this was. I responded, "This is the game of Life. It's called working for a living." Maybe I worded it more friendly than that, but this was my unfiltered thoughts. It was a fun group to work with. I only tried to play the game once, but could not compete when I was playing with the writers of the game. One of the game writers I hired had created the game "Chutes and Ladders" while working at Milton Bradley.

I am truly blessed with my family and friends. I'm very proud of my children and now grandchild. My mother is still with us and is strong at 92. I hope I inherited her genes!

Diane Haase

## Barry Johnson (Part I)

(from an autobiography written for an English assignment on October 25, 1951)

### My Autobiography

I was born in Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital on July 12, 1939. To find that I was the youngest of four children, two sisters and one brother. My parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Johnson of 134 N.

Pennock Ave, Upper Darby and my parents both graduated from Upper Darby High School.



At the age of five I started kindergarten at Highland Park School. At nine years of age I joined cub pack 120. When I was eleven I joined Scout Troop Highland Park #1.

In sixth grade I was on traffic duty for the school safety patrol. I was in the school chorus and sang in the elementary school pageant. I started to take violin

lessons and was in the District Orchestra.

On summer vacations we usually go to my father's fraternity cabin in the mountains near Penn State. On the way home we usually visit some other place. Some of these places are Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, and Gettysburg. Last summer we went to Wildwood for a week. I also have gone to Pennington Island, a Presbyterian Church camp and Camp Delmont, a boy scout camp.



I am now in seventh grade and looking forward to three interesting years at Upper Darby Junior High School.





## Barry Johnson (Part II – From a Living in Retirement Newsletter)

Barry Johnson was born in suburban Philadelphia. He remained a Pennsylvanian through college and graduate school, receiving his Ph.D. in physics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1965. UWO offered him a faculty position and Barry began his teaching career here in September, 1965.

The two families settled as neighbors in Oshkosh; Barry's three sons and Noreen's two sons and a daughter formed childhood friendships. Eventually, both marriages ended in divorce, and Barry and Noreen began dating. They married in November of 1988, uniting families, talents, and their many shared interests.

Barry served in positions that took him beyond UWO classrooms. He was chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department for four years, and Associate Dean of the College of Letters and Science for seven. He retrained in Computer Science from 1981 to 1983 and joined the faculty in that department in 1983, eventually serving as its Chair for four years and served as Coordinator of Academic Advisement for the College L&S. Barry retired in 1998.

But "retired" is not a word to apply. Barry is active in the First Presbyterian Church of Oshkosh and served on most of the committees at some time or other. Barry has worked on local political campaigns, was a candidate for the County Board, and is currently a volunteer mediator for the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center, an avocation he finds rewarding because it helps people resolve conflicts without resorting to costly court battles.

It is not surprising his interests and talents led Barry to the Learning in Retirement Organization. No sooner had Barry volunteered for the curriculum committee than he found himself its chairman. He also served as LIR vice president and as treasurer for three years. His enthusiasm for the program had far-reaching effects. Barry sent information on LIR to his brother who created a similar, highly successful program in Potsdam, New York, called SOAR (Significant Opportunities After Retirement).

Hearing the Johnsons describe their many activities, one is left wondering if this couple has found a way to slow down the clock to fit it all in. Their six children are scattered across the country (with fourteen grandchildren), offering opportunities to visit from Boston to Sacramento with stops in Cleveland and Minneapolis (two children remained Wisconsinites, one living in Oshkosh and one in Madison). They happily recall a past Christmas season when their house echoed with the delight of six little girls, all under the age of six.

Spring and summer find them in their yard and garden where they grow flowers, vegetables, apples. Much of the produce is canned or frozen, including Barry's latest specialty, apple juice made with a press he inherited. Snowbound in a long winter, they've undertaken caning a set of chairs. Both are music lovers as well as avid readers who share insights and observations on books that they are reading.

Having lived in many cities and traveled the world, Barry and Noreen are proud to call Oshkosh home, and they value the culture, friendliness, and opportunities here. LIR is fortunate to be the recipient of their willingness to share their many talents.



So – Who am I? Well, mother of three, grandma of 6, very happily married 32 years in June to my “trophy” husband who is 10 years younger than I.

My main career was working in the court system as Register in Probate/Probate Court Commissioner for Outagamie County, a job which entailed in part helping people during their time of loss and grief to work through how to handle taking care of the estate of their loved one. I was able to help reassure them that it is not as daunting as some feared. This was the most satisfying part – helping folks in need, which has led me to various volunteer places since I retired 12 years ago. Volunteering has just been a focus for my husband and me for a long time.

Another passion in my life is dogs. My husband is a veterinarian (good fit for me) recently retired, and for 25 years I was active in the Winnebagie Dog Club as an instructor and Director of Training. Again, my interest was more in helping people learn how to train their dogs, rather than doing the actual training. (If you met our three dogs, you would understand that☺.)

One thing you may not guess about me is that I used to type Greta Van Susteren’s homework. You may know she is a News Anchor on Fox News. My first job in the court system in the 70’s was as secretary to her dad, Judge Urban Van Susteren and he would bring her papers to work for me to type.

I’ve had a very fortunate life so far, mostly thanks to the people who have been part of it. Of everything in my life I am most proud of my three children and their families and how they live their lives. Really neat people.

In addition to Samaritan, I also serve with the Neenah Menasha Emergency Society (Membership Chair), Theda Clark Auxiliary (Installing Lifelines), and with my Learning in Retirement Group through UW Oshkosh (President). My experience with these places and Samaritan has also led me to meet a lot of really neat people! And I’m thankful for having those opportunities.

Kathy Mahoney



I grew up in Ashland, WI on Lake Superior with very fine parents, an older sister & younger brother. Dad was a surgeon, & served in the South Pacific for 4 years during WWII, & mom was a nurse. I followed the family history of attending UW Madison for college, studying fashion & interiors after mastering the program requirements of 7 kinds of chemistry.

My husband, Dick, & I met in college & married the fall after we graduated. We have 3 children who, surprisingly chose to live nearby, so we have enjoyed the company of 7 grandchildren, now quite grown up. We added AFS students to our family during their high school years, so became better acquainted with Germany, Brazil, Spain, & Australia & have visited some & welcomed their families into our home.

Dick & I started our lives together in Milwaukee & moved to Oshkosh in 1969 & Butte des Morts in 1974. A year ago we made the big move next door & continued our habit of remodeling another house--slightly this time.

My careers have been varied: Paine Art Center & Arboretum Curator of Education in the 80's; Insurance companies for the next 20 years & closed out those years helping clients understand Long Term Care Insurance & Medicare. Along the way I fit in time volunteering at the Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh, Mercy Foundation Board & special projects, & the Master Gardener Organization.

I enjoy being outdoors, so that's where you will find me in most any weather. I don't think even my neighbors know that I hoola hoop every morning before breakfast as part of my exercise routine--outside when I can, & try to incorporate vegetables into every breakfast.

Marti Norton



I am Jen Parsons, the new Connected Community Wellness Screen Program Coordinator for Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley. In starting this new adventure with Samaritan, I am no stranger to the Mental Health community as I have worked in Mental Health for the past 10 years or so, starting out as a Case Manager for Valley Packaging Industries, and then also volunteering in facilitation the NAMI Teen Support Group within Harmony Café for 7 years.

I have a wonderful and loving husband, Brian who I have been married to for 8 years this August. We have 2 children, Elanore (4) and Abel (2) who keep our household at a steady chaotic state! ☺ We also have a very rambunctious and large bulldog, Mazy, who likes to keep us on our toes.

My other passion is health and nutrition and keeping myself and my family healthy, by working out- being active, and cooking healthy meals regularly. One thing you may not know about me is I own a small business called, Absolute Wellness, LLC located downtown Appleton and house 2 employees there working on Corporate Health and Wellness Programs as well as offering Personal Training sessions. I also am a Personal Trainer, and have clients that I see before and after work during the week. This keeps my passion rolling in the belief that Mind and Body really are connected. So, this new position seems like such an amazing fit as the Wellness Screen Coordinator for a counseling center providing healing of the Mind, Body, Spirit and Community- all of my passions in one great mantra.

In my free time, other than my two jobs – I love spending time with my family, traveling to Door County, playing outside, visiting my family in La Crosse, and doing home renovation projects!

Thank you for including me in this opportunity to get to know everyone- I cannot wait to meet you all.

-Jen Parsons



BORN January 14, 1945 – a war baby, along with my identical twin brother, Dennis. HOMETOWN: Julesburg, Colorado located in the far Northeast Corner of Colorado, next to the Nebraska state line. Used to drive to Nebraska to get 3.2 Coors beer before I was legal.

We grew up on a farm outside Julesburg. I still remember the day we got indoor plumbing ( I was around 7-8 years old.) I started first grade when I was 4 ½ years old (no such thing as kindergarten in the country. ) Attended a small one room school; moved to a two story school (still in the country) and finally to Julesburg.

Graduated from Sedgwick Country High School in 1962 and headed to Greeley, Colorado to Colorado State College (now University of Northern Colorado.) Met my lovely wife Barbara in 1965 when she went out with my brother on a blind date. We both graduated from CSC as teachers and headed to Simi, California for our first teaching jobs. We stayed there for three years, then headed back to Greeley, where I received my Masters in Educational Administration.

The next jobs took us to Seattle, Washington where I taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Barbara taught kindergarten. We stayed there one year – bad economic situation where the district closed 5 schools and let 250 teachers go. I was one of them. Decided we didn't like the economic situation and came to Neenah, Wisconsin through Barb's roommate in college, Sue Pelton. Her dad was principal at Conant Junior High in Neenah. Before we moved to Seattle I had interviewed for positions throughout Wisconsin. (The only state we could both agree to live in.)

After teaching Special Education in Neenah High School for two years, I took a summer job with Presto Products working for the manufacturing vice president, Bill Heckrodt. He and his family were members of the Congregational UCC of Neenah/Menasha.

Oh yeah, Barb told me she was pregnant as we crossed the Continental Divide on the way from Seattle to Neenah. She never taught in the public schools again but became the Director of Lake Edge Preschool for 25 years.

I have three sons: Mark (1972), Wendy and Chase, Sydney, and Sophie; Michael(1973) Kristine and Ethan and Grace; Matthew (1976) and his friend, Mandy Buss. Also have four grand dogs – Titan, Panyou, Hannah, and new puppy, Gus.

I have served on the Samaritan Counseling Center Board for 6 years and then became a member of the Personnel/Policy committee. Served on the American Red Cross Board in Appleton and mentor student(s) through Best Friends of Neenah/Menasha.

Life has been very good to me and my family. Unfortunately, cancer took Barb in December, 2015 so I spend a lot more time with my sons and their family. Also heavily supported by my great church family.

DAVID (ALLEN) PEPERKORN

## Lisa Strandberg Personal Bio

My dad grew up on a dairy farm, the youngest of 10 kids. My mom was the daughter of a paper mill mechanic and, like most of her four brothers and her sister, worked in a paper mill herself for a time before she and my dad married. This may make me the most quintessential Wisconsinite in the land. Here are the two of them on Mother's Day 2015 – the last Mother's Day I spent with my mom before she died unexpectedly on July 27, 2015, of a pulmonary embolism two days after what we thought would be pretty ordinary surgery. I miss her every day.



This is my family – Ryan, 15, myself, Rachel, 13, and Dave. That's our 2015 Christmas tree in the background. It was 52 degrees that December afternoon. But even if it were -52 degrees, my



kids would not be wearing hats or coats. It's one of the battles I've chosen not to fight with them.

Battles I do fight with them: Getting them to put their dishes in the dishwasher, not on the counter. Training them to turn off the basement light when they come upstairs. Making sure they go to church.

That last one is extra-important to me, because it was extra-important to my family when I was a kid. We would find a

Catholic church wherever we were. (I remember, at age 13, going to church in Yellowstone National Park during my family's one and only major odyssey – a 19-day camping trip across Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming.) My parents, and especially my dad, were pretty serious about it.

I suppose that's how I wound up at Samaritan – because faith is woven into every part of me. I followed a winding path to get here. I majored in chemical engineering, worked in R&D at Kimberly-Clark, quit when Ryan was born to spend my children's earliest years at home with them, and built a freelance writing business so I could work flexibly when they were in elementary school. That freelance writing business eventually connected me with Samaritan, which eventually led to my current role.

Of course, I don't work all the time. There are plenty of other ways I occupy my mind and heart. I have really amazing friends, and work hard to be one. Dave and I host something called Third

Sunday Dinner every month, and it is a sacred time for our tribe.



Soccer mom-hood is another way I fill my time, and I have the minivan to prove it. Here I am at the Neenah Flatgrass soccer tournament in 2015, volunteering as the beverage cart driver. (You can see a couple of parents in the background who look pretty jealous of me.)

When the floor of my minivan is not full of grass clippings and the little rubbery pellets that cleats pick up when worn on artificial turf, it's covered with the clumps of horse muck (dried, if I'm lucky) carried in by my daughter, who, after her weekly riding lesson, happily volunteers for the dirtiest jobs at the stable just so she can be with the horses a little longer.

To keep up with active kids, I try to stay active myself. A modest amount of running and strength training seems to do the trick. Coffee helps, too, as does an hour or two in my favorite chair with a good book. Literary fiction's been rising to the top lately – specifically Marilynne Robinson.

One other little-known fact about me: The first time I saw the state Capitol was in seventh grade, when my parents and I traveled to Madison after I earned a spot in the Wisconsin state spelling bee. I came in 12<sup>th</sup>, and went down on the word *demiglace*. So if we're ever out together at a nice restaurant and I shed a small tear while reading the menu, you'll know why.

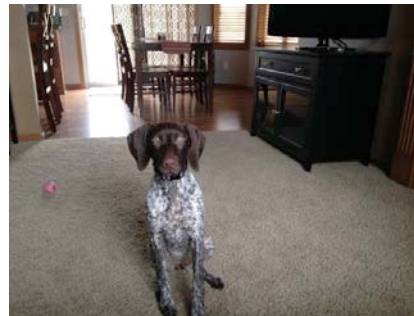
## Who am I? – Lynn Swoverland



I have lived in the Neenah area for my entire life and I graduated from Neenah High School in 2003. I attended UW Oshkosh for both my undergraduate (Human Services) and graduate programs (Professional Counseling). I have been a school counselor in the Oshkosh Area School District for the past six years. I really love being a counselor and having the opportunity to work with teenagers - I never stop learning from my work with students. Everyone has a story and their stories fascinate and inspire me.

I married my husband, Adam, almost eight years ago. We've known each other since high school, so we really grew up together. I'm very fortunate to be married to my best friend even though our personalities couldn't be more opposite (I'm a counselor, he works in finance, enough said). ☺

I am a "dog mom" to Ginger (a German Shorthaired Pointer), who loves to point robins in the backyard. She keeps me pretty busy as she's a rather active girl!



Things I love to do:

- DIY projects - my husband and I just finished our basement (a project we did entirely on our own - fun and kind of scary at the same time - have you ever watched Renovation Realities?!)
- I am passionate about dogs - please don't ever say "it's just a dog" around me, otherwise you may get an earful... yikes!
- I have spent time volunteering at some local animal shelters - something I hope to get involved with again.
- Winemaking
- Beer brewing assistant (Adam is obsessed with brewing his own beer, and by default, I became his assistant in this process).
- Fishing - I find there is nothing better than being out on the water - it's about the only way I can escape reality.
- Going to Arizona to visit my brother, sister-in-law and nephew. It's my home away from home.
- I love baking - my grandpa owned a bakery for 30+ years in Denmark, WI and my two uncles also went to baking school, so I guess you could say it's a family tradition.

Something many people do not know about me is that I have a great deal of interest in music - I played the tuba in high school and was going to major in music in college.





Tom Tatlock

Since 2000 I've been the cook, meal planner and grocery shopper in our family. I literally fell into this role --- by falling off a ladder, sustaining a "mild" traumatic brain injury (TBI). Andrea and I had been married for 30 years when this happened. Cooking was not her favorite activity, and I still suspect that Andrea paid the cognitive therapist at the Mayo Clinic so that cooking would become my therapeutic activity.

Andrea and I have twin sons, Scott and Ward, and 5 grandchildren. In 1988 we took our sons to China, as part of a family tour. They became interested in this part of the world: one of them is fluent in Mandarin and the other in Japanese. None of those skills exist in their parents --- except we've had to learn "Wisconsin" because we grew up in Kansas.

You could say that I've had a "non-linear life." I was the eldest of 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. I worked my way through college, the University of Kansas (KU) and had a wide range of different jobs. One of the more interesting ones was being the editor of the KU yearbook, *The Jayhawker*. The following year some of us started a campus humor magazine, *The Bird*, that didn't last very long. I went to medical school and did an internal medicine internship at the KU Med Center in Kansas City.

We moved to Madison so that I could do a residency in psychiatry at UW. Looking back on those hot summers in Kansas, I wished that I had known about Madison --- its lakes, atmosphere and the cooler temperatures. After completing the psychiatry residency, we moved to Appleton I began a private practice in psychiatry that lasted until the TBI forced me into an early, involuntary retirement.

After my own TBI I did a graduate certificate program in TBI and special education so that I could be a more effective and informed "volunteer educator" on TBI. I've given a number of presentations on TBI. My first talk was titled:

"Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, A Course in Patience and Humility"

(Tom is a Slow Learner but Reality is Persistent Teacher)



### Samaritan Bio – Greg Watling

My favorite role in life is being a Dad to three amazing children, Sarah (14), Robbie (17) and Ryan (19). Sarah will be an incoming Freshman at New London High School this fall, Robbie a Senior at NLHS and Ryan will be in year two at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. All three of them are great students with varying interests. The funniest part is that they are all exceptional athletes, which neither of their parents can claim.

My spouse of 25 years is Cindy Goller. She is employed at Paper Converting Machine Company, Green Bay as a Senior Buyer in the Purchasing Department. We are college sweethearts – first meeting in a college youth group while attending Michigan State University. She graduated in Industrial Engineering and I graduated from James Madison College (at MSU) with a B.A. in American Public Affairs. My original goals were either political office or to be a Russian interpreter in the State Department. Barely passing Russian was a major reason that didn't work out!

Instead, I went to seminary, having followed Cindy to Kansas City, Missouri, where we lived for 8 years. I graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology, was ordained and began my first call in 1995. We left Kansas City to move home to Michigan (didn't quite make it there) and I began to serve a United Church of Christ Congregation in De Pere.

We moved to New London in 2009 where I began my present call at First Congregational United Church of Christ.

In addition to my new role at Samaritan, I am actively involved in the community through participation in the ThedaCare Foundation – New London, The Community Health Action Team (New London), ThedaCare Family of Foundations, Waupaca County Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice, former member of the New London Library and Museum Board, recently elected to the Church Development and Renewal Team for the Wisconsin Conference UCC, President of the Northeast Aquatics Club (New London), and in my last year as a soccer coach (I think). This summer part of the family will serve as volunteers to assist children on the Autism Spectrum and their families at Camp Awesum, held at the UCC Church camp near St. Germain.

I love to ride my bicycle, but don't get to enough, and we love to camp, kayak and hang out doing other fun outdoor activities.



Deb Woerpel-Larson

I live in Greenville with my husband of 32 years (Joe), our dog (Logan) and our cat (Mario). We have one daughter (Deandra) who will be a junior at UW-Milwaukee this fall.

I started out life in Sun Prairie and lived there until 1995 when my career with Wisconsin Gas Co. moved me to Rome, WI (south of Wis. Rapids). We lived there three years and then I was transferred to the Little Chute office in 1998. I worked at Wisconsin Gas for 22 years and made the decision to retire in 2002.

After a nine month hiatus, I returned to work in the commercial real estate field as an office manager for three years. I took another six month hiatus and joined Samaritan Counseling Center as a temp in Dec. 2006. I'm happy to say that I will celebrate 10 years with the agency this year.

As a kid, our family traveled every summer and I was privileged to visit 45 out of the 50 states. My love of travel has been a constant in my life and I've added Mexico, Australia, Italy, and the Dominican Republic to places visited along with many, more places in the U.S. I really enjoy new adventures and learning about other cultures.

I also enjoy spending time with family and friends, photography, dancing, reading, walking the beach and meeting new people.

My husband was in the construction industry so we have built three homes and remodeled a fourth. I love the process of designing and building unique, well laid out homes. It's a safe bet that we will build/remodel number five in the next couple years.

I've served on different organizations and volunteer groups over the years (BPW-Sun Prairie, Make a Wish Foundation, Homeowners Association). I hope to spend more time volunteering when I retire.

What you may not know about me – I love to bake (well known for my caramel corn) and I adore squirrels.