

# Larry Long

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## AMERICAN TROUBADOUR



*"Out of muteness, silence, and pain there comes a song. It rises from the earth, the exploitation, work, and sorrow of the people. It rises from struggle kept alive in our wonderful multiplicity and sounds the tenderness of our solidarity. Bird song, people's songs, from struggle and death, from the lost and gone and mute, out of the corpse of our death we sing."*

*"Then our joyous singer like Larry Long begins to come where we are working, where we are living, and listens, repeats like a mockingbird or notes of nightingales or meadowlarks, makes songs out of the first and last breath. He sings where we are, about what is happening. He takes the real sound, the real words and gives us back our songs and we hear what singers we all are and how beautiful, and how strong."*

*- Meridel Le Sueur, Author & Poet*

*"Telling the stories of hard-working people in a way that highlights the courage, deep personal experiences, and heroism found in their lives is a tradition for which Woody Guthrie is famous and which Larry Long continues." - Dr. Anthony Seeger, Smithsonian Folkways*

Like his artistic forefathers Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie before him, Long's sense of place and time is eloquently captured in his music and in the powerful community building he's done with elders and children all over the country and abroad. When Pete Seeger was told that Larry is often referred to as the Pete Seeger of Minnesota, Pete replied, *"I would be honored to be called the Larry Long of New York."*

Larry Long, called *"a true American Troubadour"* by author Studs Terkel, has made his life work the celebration of American stories. In a curriculum called *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*, he has brought these heroes and sheroes into the classroom to share their oral history with our younger generation. The children then go on to create songs and lyrical work that celebrate the history and triumphs of their own communities and learn in the process to honor the struggles of different cultures.

Larry Long's hundreds of ballads readily capture the American history of our time, while embracing our common humanity with stories about those history makers who are known and those who are unknown. He has worked in urban communities combining Latin, Somalian, African-American, and Scandinavian students. He has worked in southern rural communities combining black, white, Native American and Latin stories. In the mid-1980's he assembled the first hometown tribute to Woody Guthrie in Okemah, Oklahoma, which today has evolved into a large, free festival with an array of established and upcoming artists. Throughout the nation, his work has sought to celebrate our diversity and joint community.

Larry has sung at major concerts and festivals throughout the United States and world, including Awesome Africa Festival (South Africa), Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall (Washington DC), Winnipeg Folk Festival (Canada), Smithsonian Folklife Festival (Washington DC), and at Madison Square Garden with Joan Baez and many others for Pete Seeger's 90th Birthday Celebration.

Long's work in schools and communities sparked the creation of the nonprofit Community Celebration of Place which creates intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for students to learn and grow through a program called Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song. Through this work Long has honored the life stories of over one-thousand elders with communities throughout the United States. The fruits of which are now being housed and digitized through the University of Minnesota [Performing Arts Archives](#).

Long is a recipient of the prestigious In The Spirit of Crazy Horse Award, Bush Artists Fellowship, Pope John XXIII Award, Leadership In Neighborhood Fellowship (St. Paul Companies), and Sustainability Award for his work in forgotten communities.



# Larry Long

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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM A REMARKABLE CAREER

- **ROSA PARKS AND THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT DEDICATION OF THE ROSA PARKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY:** Larry Long with Youth & Elders of Rural Alabama performed a special tribute for Mrs. Rosa Parks at Troy University on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mrs. Parks, the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" was the guest of honor. Other dignitaries of the Civil Rights Movement included Dr. Juanita Abernathy, Dr. Johnnie Mae Carr, Dr. Dorothy Height, Dr. Coretta Scott King, Dr. Mammie Till-Mobley, and Ms. Cicely Tyson.
- **I WILL BE YOUR FRIEND: SONGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEACEMAKERS** was produced by Larry Long through the South Poverty Law Center. Over two hundred thousand of these activity books with CD's were given out FREE to elementary schools and teachers, religious and community centers and other organizations serving children in the younger grades throughout the United States. This collection includes archival recordings from Pete Seeger, Melvina Reynolds, Louis Armstrong, Langston Hughes and Rogers and Hammerstein. It won a Parents' Choice Award in 2003.
- **MISSISSIPPI RIVER REVIVAL:** With his voice and guitar, Larry organized communities from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to Dubuque, Iowa. Throughout the 1980's Larry produced over twenty river festivals, hauled hundreds of tons of trash out of the river with community volunteers along the upper Mississippi River, worked with Governor Perpich to create the "clean rivers" movement in Minnesota, and traveled the length of the Mississippi River with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater and the National Audubon Society.
- **SOUTH AFRICA:** Larry traveled in South Africa through a grant from the U.S. State Department. While there, Larry held a collective writing workshop with students, migrant workers and union stewards, and worked with youth choirs from the townships of St. Wendolin's and Chester, and held two performances at the Awesome Africa Festival at the Swanimi Reserve. Awesome Africa features popular and traditional singers throughout the continent of Africa.
- **RUSSIA:** Larry toured with Kris Kristofferson and others in Russia near the end of the Cold War.
- **SOUTH AMERICA:** In 1993 Larry performed throughout the country of Brazil as a cultural ambassador through the United States Consulate.
- **BUSH FELLOW RECIPIENT** in 1995.
- **SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE:** Larry was not only friends with Paul and Sheila (and wrote one of their campaign songs) but was the composer and music director for the critically acclaimed play *Wellstone!* at the History Theatre.

- **POPE JOHN XXIII AWARD RECIPIENT** in 2001.
- **THE SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE AWARD RECIPIENT** in 2002.
- **PETE SEEGER'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:** Joining Seeger for this extraordinary concert event were more than 40 artists, including Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, Arlo Guthrie, Joan Baez, Kris Kristofferson, Richie Havens, Roger McGuinn, Ani DiFranco, Taj Mahal, Ben Harper, Dave Matthews, and Larry Long. The concert was a benefit for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, a non-profit, environmental organization created by Seeger to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the Hudson River and featured on PBS Great Performances.
- **WOODY GUTHRIE FESTIVAL:** Larry "brought Woody home" to Okemah, Oklahoma, by creating the first hometown tribute for Woody Guthrie on December 1, 1988. His work with the kids in Okemah helped to resurrect Woody's legacy and get townsfolk to take another, softer look at Guthrie's work and impact. Long returned to perform in July 2009, 20 years after bringing Woody home.
- **OKEMAH CITY COUNCIL** unanimously approved that Okemah Waltz become the official song of Okemah, Oklahoma on November 26, 2012, Woody Guthrie's Centennial year, Larry Long collectively wrote Okemah Waltz with children from Okemah, Oklahoma in 1986.
- **AMERICA'S OLD TIME MUSIC HALL OF FAME** inductee in 2014.
- **FOR PETE'S SAKE: CELEBRATING PETE SEEGER'S 95<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY:** Larry produces a sold-out celebration for what would have been Pete Seeger's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota. The event was recorded by Minnesota Public Radio and broadcast internationally. Members of the Seeger family attended and were honored.
- **AMERICAN ROOTS REVUE:** Larry receives two Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Grants to take "American Roots Revue" on a legacy tour into eight outstate Minnesota communities for 'forgotten populations and audiences': and related community outreach activities in partnership with homeless shelters, incarceration facilities; community and veterans' organizations.
- **RECIPIENT OF A CULTURAL LEGACY GRANT** from the Minnesota Historical Society to create an archive of an extension collection of materials that documents the life work of Larry Long.
- **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES PERFORMING ARTS ARCHIVES** acquire Larry Long's complete legacy collection. This includes recordings, oral histories, media, posters, correspondence, national and local work with schools and communities, and personal writings that document his decades of songwriting and performing and artistic collaborations.



# Larry Long

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## DISCOGRAPHY (PARTIAL LISTING)

- **Living In A Rich Man's World**, Larry Long, 1981, Waterfront Records
- **Run for Freedom**, Larry Long, 1985, Flying Fish Records, FF346
- **Sweet Thunder**, Larry Long, 1987, Flying Fish Records, FF430
- **It Takes a Lot of People (Tribute to Woody Guthrie)**  
Larry Long with the Children of Oklahoma, 1988, Flying Fish #70508
- **Troubadour**, Larry Long, 1992, Flying Fish #70528
- **The Psalms**, Larry Long, 1995, Stellar, #1001
- **Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song**  
Larry Long with the Youth & Elders of Rural Alabama, 1996, Smithsonian Folkways, #45050
- **Smithsonian Folkways Children's Music Collection**  
Langston Hughes, Pete Seeger, Ella Jenkins, Woody Guthrie, and Larry Long  
1998, Smithsonian Folkways #45050
- **Well May The World Go**, Larry Long, 2000, Smithsonian Folkways, #40114
- **If I Had A Song: Songs of Pete Seeger Vol 2**, Various Artists, 2001, Appleseed Records
- **I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers** *Featuring: Louis Armstrong, Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, J.D. Steele, Larry Long, and others*, 2003, Teaching Tolerance, Southern Poverty Law Center, Produced by Larry Long
- **Don't Stand Still**, Larry Long, 2011, Cereus Records
- **Dove With Claws**, Larry Long, 2015, Cereus Records
- **American Roots Revue Live At The Dakota** (2023)  
Featuring: Larry Long, Tonia Hughes Kendrick, Billy Steele, Claudia Schmidt, Robert Robinson | Produced by Larry Long | Cereus Records
- **Songs for My Grandchildren**, Larry Long, 2023, Cereus Records
- **As In Those Early Days**, Larry Long & Fiddlin' Pete Watercott (2024)

## SINGLES

- **Tennessee the Boot Man & Oh Son, Oh Son**  
Larry Long, 1975, Waterfront Records
- **Pope County Blues & The Band Played the Beer Barrel Polka** Larry Long & Minnesota Swing Symphony, 1977, Owens Valley Records
- **John Deere Have a Beer & One More Reason Why the Farmer is On Strike**  
Larry Long, Waterfront Records 1979
- **George Floyd (Say His Name)**, Larry Long, 2020
- **No More Pipeline Blues (On This Land Where We Belong)**, 2021  
Featuring Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo, Bonnie Raitt, Waubanewquay, Mumu Fresh, Indigo Girls, Winona LaDuke, Soni Mareno, Jennifer Kreisberg and Pura Fe.  
Written & produced by Larry Long
- **Firefighter (Duty, Honor, Courage)**, Larry Long, 2023
- **Freedom, Oh Freedom**, 2025  
Featuring: Cameron Wright, Dawn L. McArthur, Aimee Bryant, Robert Robinson, J.D. Steele, Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, CitySongs  
Composed and produced by Larry Long, Choir under the direction of J.D. Steele.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY (PARTIAL LISTING)

- Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Guidebook by Larry Long & Jim Fanning, Project of the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, 1999, Sing Out! Publishing
- New Folk Favorites, Collected by Will Schmid, 1990, Hal Leonard Publishing

## TELEVISION & RADIO APPEARANCES (PARTIAL LISTING)

- Today Show (NBC)
- All Things Considered (NPR)
- Marketplace (NPR)
- McNeil Lehrer NewsHour (PBS)
- Prairie Home Companion (MPR)

## Larry Long

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### RESUME

Born 1951, Des Moines, Iowa  
Lives in Minneapolis, MN.

#### Education

Road Scholar

*All the recordings and projects listed below were written, performed, and produced by Larry Long, unless otherwise noted.*

*"My heartfelt thanks to Larry Long and all the voices from which our history continues to generate encouragement, enthusiasm and wisdom."*

*- Arlo Guthrie, Songwriter, Son of Woody Guthrie*

- **Selected Troubadour Works**

1975

*Tennessee the Boot Man & Oh Son, Oh Son* written to honor a shoe cobbler in Bishop, California and hard rock tungsten miners, who worked for Union Carbide along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

1988-1989

*It Takes a Lot of People (Tribute for Woody Guthrie)* featuring Larry Long & Children of Oklahoma. Twenty years after Woody Guthrie died Larry Long moved to Okemah and began working with Okemah school students to bring their native son, Woody Guthrie, back home. This first hometown tribute for their native son, Woody Guthrie, was held at the Crystal Theatre on December 1, 1988. NBC's *Today Show* sent correspondent Lucky Severson to Okemah to cover the event. The concert was recorded and released on Flying Fish Records in 1989.

1992

*The Psalms* featuring original works inspired by the Tehillim/The Book of Psalms (Hebrew), King James, and the Jerusalem translations of the Psalms.

1993

*Troubadour* featuring live concerts and field recordings from throughout the United States.

- **For the Family Farmer**

1977

"Pope County Blues," written for the Minnesota power line resistance.

1978

Received the Key to the City from Columbia, Tennessee.

Larry organized Tennessee farmers into selling their homegrown produce in church parking lots directly to consumers. While working with local farmers he sang daily for seniors through the Meals on Wheels program.

1979

*Troubadour* for farmer tractorcade to Washington, D.C.

Larry documented the farmers' journey to our nation's capitol for fair prices through taped interviews, and photography. He produced a thirty-minute slide show with an audio track mixing spoken word with traditional and original music. This slide show traveled all across the United States. Portions of which are archived in the Library of Congress.

John Deere Have a Beer & One More Reason Why the Farmer is On Strike written for the American Agriculture Movement's tractorcade to Washington D.C.

- **For The Mississippi River**

1981 - 90

Larry founded the Mississippi River Revival, a campaign to clean up the Mississippi River. With his voice and guitar Larry organized communities from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to Dubuque, Iowa. Through this period Larry produced over twenty river festivals, hauled hundreds of tons of trash out of the river with community volunteers along the upper Mississippi River, worked with Governor Perish to create the "clean rivers" movement in Minnesota, and traveled the length of the Mississippi River with "In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre".

- **For The American Indian Movement**

1981

*Troubadour* with Run For Freedom.

Larry wrote songs with Lakota children while on a spiritual run across the state of South Dakota, which was to have culminated in Sioux Falls. Before the run was completed, a young girl, Wambli' Waken Wi (Kimberly Rose Means) was struck and killed by a drunk driver, who

happened to be white. He was later freed on a misdemeanor charge. One of the songs Larry wrote with the children was sung by the children at Kimberly's funeral in Rosebud, South Dakota. Today, there is a yearly run to Sioux Falls in her honor.

1984

*Run For Freedom*, album, Flying Fish Records

Produced by Marian Moore

1987

*Sweet Thunder*, album, Flying Fish Records

Produced by Larry Long & Billy Peterson

This collection includes the song, "Water In The Rain", written with the Prairie Island Dakota community about the largest mass hanging in U.S. history. "Water In The Rain" is the first intentional work of Larry's that integrates the spoken word with traditional and non-traditional music beds. Within the song; Dakota Elder, Amos Owen, prays for the survival his people and then names the 38 Dakota who were hung in Mankato by Lincoln's decree in 1862.

*"Larry Long is doing what more singers and songwriters should be doing:  
using music to help people learn to work together,  
and bring a world of peace." —Pete Seeger*

- **For the Peace Movement**

1986 - 88

Troubadour for Soviet-American Peace Cruises on the Mississippi and Volga Rivers.

Larry traveled the lengths of the Mississippi and Volga Rivers on the Delta Queen and the Maxim Gorky in the days of Perestroika. On these peace voyages there were Soviet Cosmonauts, Navy Admirals, clergy, factory workers, students, professors, and members of government from both the United States and the former Soviet Union. Thousands of people greeted the "Soviet American Peace Cruise" at each port. Larry along with artists from the late Soviet Union performed at every stop. This Soviet American Peace Cruise was the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

*"When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work  
and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned  
from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work."  
-Dr. Anthony Seeger, Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings*

- **For the American Community**

1988 - 2000

Larry developed "Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song"™, an intergenerational and interdisciplinary approach to building community through the arts in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Alabama, South Dakota, Nebraska, Georgia, Arizona, and Tennessee.

During this period Larry has worked in over forty-two communities, producing over fifty community celebrations, writing one hundred and sixty-eight songs with the youth & elders of



America, and producing and releasing sixteen Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song cassettes to honor specific local communities.

1995

*Hauling Freight, No Fences (Honoring Gerald Johannick)*, dock/music video,  
Produced by Barry Kimm and Larry Long.

This fifteen-minute dock/music video documents the life of Gerald Johanneck, a truck driver. Directed by Barry Kimm and narrated by students from Wabasso, Minnesota. Featuring the song, "Hauling Freight, No Fences", written and performed by Larry Long with the community of Wabasso.

1995

Bush Artist Fellowship Recipient  
Bush Foundation

1997

*Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*, compact disc, Smithsonian Folkways

Featuring Larry Long with the Youth & Elders' of Rural Alabama. Produced in collaboration with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, University of Alabama

*Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* features select field recordings of oral history, traditional secular and spiritual music, storytelling and original works by Larry Long and the youth of rural Alabama. The content of this recording takes you from the Appalachian foothills to the black belt, from the coalmines to the cotton fields, from slavery to freedom. *Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* received the Parents' Choice Award and was nominated for consideration into the Grammy's.

1999

*Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Guidebook*, 60 pages, SingOut!  
Written by Larry Long & Jim Fanning  
Edited by Laura Caldwell Anderson  
Photography by Andrew Goetz

Project of PACERS Small Schools Cooperative and Community Celebration of Place

The booklet explains why it is important to allow both joyous and difficult subjects to emerge through the stories of elders and students alike: Children can deal with and absorb the most difficult subjects. Through the process a community is built. The universal is found in the particular. And miracles do happen!

2000

*Well May The World Go*, compact disc, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Featuring the life stories in song and spoken word from both the ancient and recent immigrant cultures of the United States, including: Hmong, Somalia, Mexican, Irish, German and Anishinabe (Ojibwa). All songs written and performed by Larry Long, except for "Well May The World Go," by Pete Seeger. Other musicians assisting Larry on this recording include: Pete Seeger, Debbie

Duncan, Donna Pena, Northfield Children's Choir, Billy Peterson, Signature, Annie Humphrey, Esther Godinez, See Moue, Peter Ostroushko, John Morrow, and Bo Ramsey.

2000

Recipient of the Leadership In Neighborhood Fellowship, St. Paul Companies

2007

Recipient of the 2007 Award for Contributions of Music in the Struggle for Justice and Peace. Popular Education.

2009

Pete Seeger's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at Madison Square Garden

Joining Seeger for this extraordinary concert event were more than 40 artists, including Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, Arlo Guthrie, Joan Baez, Kris Kristofferson, Richie Havens, Roger McGuinn, Ani DiFranco, Taj Mahal, Ben Harper, Dave Matthews, and Larry Long.

The concert was a benefit for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, a non-profit, environmental organization created by Seeger to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the Hudson River and featured on PBS Great Performances.

2011

Northside:: A Twin Cities Community Benefit and Northside Relief

Larry Long organized this benefit with Sara Renner, Tonia Hughes, Catherine Reid Day, Claire Chamberlin, Arlana Vaughan, Stuart Paster, LeeAnn Weimar, and Martin Keller. The celebration was held the historic State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis.

Proceeds from the Northside Relief Benefit Concert were earmarked to support the Northside community in their rebuilding efforts from the deadly tornado that struck, May 23, 2011.

Specifically to provide shelter, food, medical services, counseling, child care, utility assistance, youth mentoring and employment opportunities to the residents of North Minneapolis.

Participating artists and emcee's included: Sounds of Blackness, Soul Asylum, Brother Ali, Robert Robinson, The TC Jammers: Featuring Jeanne, Patty, Jason and Paul Peterson, Paris Bennett, Jamecia Bennett, The New Standards, Brittany Delaney, Toki Wright, DJ Freddy Fresh, Tou Saiko Lee, Thomasina Petrus, T. Mychael Rambo, Robyne Robinson, Angela Davis, and others.

2014

Larry Long presents For Pete's Sake: Celebrating Pete Seeger's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday at a sold-out concert held at the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota on May 3, 2014. Featured artists and community leaders included Dr. Josie Johnson, Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, Ann Reed, David Wellstone (son of Paul & Sheila), John Gorka, Tonia Hughes, Dan Chouinard, Peter Ostroushko, Waubesa Day, Tony Glover, Estaire Godinez, Lorna Her Many Horses and others.

Governor Mark Dayton declared it Pete Seeger Day in Minnesota. All proceeds went to the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School in South Minneapolis. Recorded and aired through Radio Heartland, 89.3 The Current, [radioheartland.org](http://radioheartland.org).

2021

Larry Long writes and produces No More Pipeline Blues (On This Land Where We Belong) Featured artists includes Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo, Bonnie Raitt, Waubanewquay, Mumu Fresh, Indigo Girls, Winona LaDuke, Soni Mareno, Jennifer Kreisberg, and Pura Fe.

No More Pipeline Blues (On This Land Where We Belong) became the audio track for an award-winning short documentary/music video produced by Honor the Earth & Pickett Pictures.

2020 – 2025

Community of Goodness Radio Show & Podcast with Larry Long and Tom Thibodeau, distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership at Viterbo University. Heard every Monday morning at 8:30 on WDRT Community Driftless Radio 91.9 FM and worldwide by going to: [www.wdrt.org](http://www.wdrt.org).

- **For the Educational Community**

2000 – 2008

The demand for Long's work sparked the creation of a non-profit organization, Community Celebration of Place. Community Celebration of Place works with communities to use music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children and elders, and people of different backgrounds — economic, faith, racial, and cultural — to honor and celebrate our commonalities and differences through a program entitled, *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*.

2001

Recipient of the Pope John XXIII Award  
Viterbo University

2002

Recipient of the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award  
Reclaiming Youth International

2004

Recipient of the First Annual Sustainability Award  
Alliance for Sustainability

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place worked in partnership with the Elk River School District to honor twenty elders long established and recently arrived in five of their elementary schools through *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*.

2004 – 2005

Eden Prairie Schools hosted a special artist-in-residency with Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place. Through *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* five elementary schools celebrated the lives of 21 elders' influential members of their community were honored as elders by the students and families. The elders were from both the new and older immigrant communities in addition to the original people of Minnesota.

2005 – 2019

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place entered into a partnership with the *West Metro Education Program (WMEP)* to integrate the Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song process into the curriculum of their eleven urban and suburban school districts in the Minneapolis metropolitan area. The mission of WMEP is to promote student success and community acceptance of differences by providing opportunities for students, families and staff from diverse backgrounds to learn from and with each other.

Larry with students honored over 150 Minnesota community elders, both long established and newly arrived, in the following school communities: Cedar Manor Intermediate Center (St. Louis Park), Cityview Performing Arts Magnet School (Minneapolis), Countryside Elementary School (Edina), Earle Brown Elementary School (Brooklyn Center), Eisenhower Elementary (Hopkins), FAIR School (Crystal), InterDistrict Downtown School (Minneapolis), Richfield Middle School (Richfield), North Park Elementary School (Columbia Heights), and Wilshire Elementary School (St. Anthony Village).

2008

In partnership with the Eden Prairie Schools Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place published an online *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Songbook* entitled *Be Kind To All That Lives*. Featuring photographs, one-page narratives, and songs honoring 21 members of the Eden Prairie community.

2009

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place published an online *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Songbook* entitled *Just Be Who You Are*. Featuring photographs, one-page narratives, and songs honoring 58 Minnesota elders, both long established and newly arrived.

2011

Larry Long releases sound recording, "Don't Stand Still", in partnership with Community Celebration of Place on Cereus Records. Featuring fourteen original works by Larry Long, plus songs collectively written with communities throughout the United States. Proceeds from the sale of this recording benefit Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song (EWCS), a core program of Community Celebration of Place.

2012

Larry Long produced a documentary music video about a Japanese American Internment Camp survivor entitled 'Be Kind to All That Live' in honor of Mrs. Helen Tsuchiya. The song of the same title was composed by Larry Long with with Brenda Dronen's 4th Grade Class, Prairie View Elementary School, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. 'Be Kind to All That Live' is featured on the sound recording 'Don't Stand Still'.

Larry Long produced a documentary music video about a Tibetan refugee, scholar and author entitled 'Tibet' in honor of Gyatsho Tshering. Gyatsho Tshering is the former director of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives. **The Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA)** is a Tibetan library in Dharamshala, India. The library was founded in 197 by Tenzin Gyatso, and is considered one of the most important libraries and institutions of Tibetan works in the world.

2013

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place launch a new program entitled Elders' Circle at the Harold Mezile North Community YMCA in Minneapolis.

2015

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place create a new program entitled Young Publishers. Books, written and illustrated by students, tell the stories shared by elders of many cultures. They teach our children the varied and multi-colored stories of our neighbors while expanding their writing, art and social studies skills. Over twenty books published and available for FREE online.

2013

Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place hosts the first of a series of annual Elders' Circle gatherings at the Harold Mezile North Community YMCA.

2015

Larry Long & Community Celebration of Place explored a new approach to Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song under the theme, Honoring Men of Color at Lucy Craft Laney Community School in north Minneapolis. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade male students of color honored African American elders Edgar Young Jr., David Branch and Reverend Richard Coleman at Lucy Craft Laney Community School. Larry Long & Toki Wright, noted Hip-Hop artist, facilitated the collective songwriting process with Julia Sewell, founder of SWAG (Scholars Working to Ascend a Generation). Jeremiah Bey, visual artist and storyteller, worked with the students to create drawings depicting the lyrics of their original songs for publication. Filmmaker ADDAM a documentary of this work entitled, "Honoring Men of Color: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song." Each of the following elder songs were professionally recorded by the students and released on YouTube as music videos: 'It's Difficult to Go From A Boy To A Man', 'We Are Rich People', "Just Be Proud'. All three songs were published in print with a companion CD through Young Publishers .

2020-2023

Larry Long coached and empowered elementary teachers to fully integrate Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song process into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum of the St. Louis Park Public Schools.

2023

Larry Long's legacy archives is acquired by the department of Archives and Special Collections in the University of Minnesota Libraries. It is one of the largest special collections departments in a university setting in the United States.

2025

University of Minnesota's Performing Arts Archives receives a \$300,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources through their *Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices* program to digitize and make available Larry Long's Archives.





## Larry Long

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### ELDERS' WISDOM, CHILDREN'S SONG ARCHIVES

*"I'm honored to be a contributor and hoping that others will come to the fore.  
It's imperative that these archives be made available to inspire others."*  
– Peter Yarrow, Peter, Paul, and Mary

Over the past thirty years, Larry Long has brought Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song to over one hundred communities throughout the United States through *Community Celebration of Place, Inc.* He has honored with children in recitation and song the life stories of immigrants, teachers, cowboys, farmers, ranchers, cooks, traveling salespeople, bankers, veterans, peace activists, custodians, socialists, journalists, holocaust survivors, migrant workers, refugees, conservationists, World War II nurses, violin makers, and the original people of North America, including the Dakota, Lakota, Anishinaabe, Paiute, Seminole, Creek, and Ho-Chunk.

At each *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* community celebration, local and regional performing groups have been showcased along with community elders and students. Their musical traditions have included gospel, bluegrass, blues, country, jazz, rap, classical, round dance, honor songs, polka, and swing.

All elder interviews and community celebrations have been archived on on digital analog tape. Audio cassettes and CD's have been produced in several of the participating communities.



Community celebration song books with elder recitations have been printed for program guides and artifacts.

Local, regional, and national media have showcased *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* through newspaper articles, television new items, and cable access documentaries.

*Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* celebrations have primarily occurred in school gymnasiums and theaters. They have also been featured on such occasions as the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall at Washington, D.C. for the 50th anniversary of Folkways Recordings and to honor Mrs. Rosa Parks for the 45th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus boycott.

Larry has worked in urban communities combining Latin, Somalian, African-American, Hebrew, Arabic, and Scandinavian students. He has worked in southern, western, and Midwestern rural communities combining black, white, Native American, and Latin stories.

Larry has applied *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* in the following states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, and California. He has also worked internationally in South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Russia, and the Ukraine.

All Alabama residencies have been documented by photographer Andrew Goetz through the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Smithsonian Institute released a select audio collection of these works on their Smithsonian Folkways label entitled *Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*, which also features photographs by Mr. Goetz.

The *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Guidebook* for teachers and communities was published by SingOut! Publications in partnership with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative. This publication has inspired communities throughout the United States to model *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* in their school curricula.

Minnesota residencies have been documented by videographer David McDonald. Before retiring with his family in Minnesota, David McDonald worked throughout the world for the Reuter News Service.

A partial list of organizations that *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* has collaborated with include: Minnesota State Arts Board, Eden Prairie Schools, PACERS Small School Cooperative, University of Alabama, Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, Center for School Change, Children's Music Network, Oklahoma State Arts Board, League of Professional Schools, New Paradigm Partners, School at the Center, South Dakota State University Program for Rural Schools and community Renewal, Southern Poverty Law Center, Teaching Tolerance, Smithsonian Folkways, Smithsonian Institute, TennGaLina Consortium, United States Information Agency, University of Minnesota Extension Service, University, Audubon Society Upper Mississippi River Campaign, Resource Center of the Americas, Grand Excursion, and Center for Global Environmental Education.

### **Materials available (Partial Listing):**

*Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Curriculum Guidebook, (60 pages)*  
Published by Sing-Out Magazine

Community Celebration of Place Sound Recordings  
Audio highlights of culminating residency celebrations from across the United States.

Videotapes of Minnesota Celebrations in urban and rural communities throughout Minnesota.  
Produced by DMcD Productions, Inc.

Elders Wisdom, Children's Song promotional videos, 1998-1999  
Produced by DMcD Productions, Inc.

*Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song by Larry Long with the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings*

Hauling Freight, No Fences (Honoring Gerald Johannick) Music Video Documentary  
Produced by Barry Kimm and Larry Long  
Be Kind to All That Live (Honoring of Helen Tsuchiya) Music Video Documentary  
Produced by DMcD Productions, Inc.

Tibet (Honoring Gyatsho Tshering) Music Video Documentary  
Produced by DMcD Productions, Inc.

Honoring Men of Color: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Video Documentary  
Produced by Addam and Larry Long

**ELDERS' WISDOM, CHILDREN'S SONG**  
***Partial Song & Elder listings***

**Tuscaloosa, Alabama**

*Moments of Glory*  
(Inspired by PACERS Teachers)

Working On A Freedom Plan  
(Inspired by the life and words of Earnest Johnson)

*Evermore*  
(Inspired by rural Alabama teachers)

**Pleasant Home, Alabama**

*Traveling Salesman*  
(Inspired by Wayne Clark, b. March 4, 1931)

*We Prayed For Rain*  
(Inspired by Mr. Onnice Coxwell, b. Feb. 10, 1914)

*Not A Hog Thief, Or A Liar*

(Inspired by Mr. Willy Mae Lawrence Godwin Senior, b. December 24, 1911)

*Blest To Survive*

(Inspired by Mr. Titus Cobb)

Recorded March 6, 1995

### **Cedar Bluff, Alabama**

*You Can Never Dream Too High*

(Inspired by Rick Clifton, Blair Davis, Mandy Davis and Kristy Terry)

*On The Banks Of The Coosa*

(Inspired by Mrs. Sue Young, b. December 4, 1930)

*When I Was A Young Girl*

(Inspired by Mildred Long, b. October 20, 1921)

*I Should Have Known Better When I Was Young*

(Inspired by Mr. David McCollum, b. 1931)

### **Millerville, Alabama**

*First Comes Love*

(Inspired by Fredonia Wilson Smith, b. January 1, 1923)

### **Arley, Alabama**

*Listen to the Singing of the Songs in Your Soul*

(Inspired by Celia Sampley, b. June 18, 1939)

*Working On My Chicken*

(Inspired by Voyt Cleghorn, b..April 1, 1920.)

*Giving Thanks To Jake & Joe*

(Inspired by Idas Neal, b. 1917)

Recorded February 6 - 12, 1998

### **Beatrice, Alabama**

*Way Down Yonder In The White's Man's Field*

(Inspired by Fred Mims & Irene Marshall, b. September 17, 1917)

*Freedom, Oh Freedom*

(Inspired by Ezra Cunningham, b. May 1, 1917)

*Way Down Yonder In The White Man's Field*

(Inspired by Irene Marshall, b. September 17, 1917)

*Needle & Thread*

(Inspired by Ellen Watkins, b. August 14, 1916, & Lula Nettles, b. August 20, 1937.)

Recorded February 24, 1995

### **Camp Hill, Alabama**

*Old Camp Hill*

(Inspired by Mary Stuart B. March 1, 1904, Nora Milner, b. January 1, 1928, Ethel Earl, b. July 18, 1914, and Delaris Williams, b. April 12, 1917.)

*The Man Who Came A Long, Long Way*

(Inspired by Lewis Martin, Jr. b. September 11, 1923)

*It's True*

(Inspired by Floice Landrum, b. March 1, 1921, & Frank Holley, b. December 6 1937)

*I Take Pride In Myself Everyday*

(Inspired by George Taylor, b. March 15, 1929.)

Poems:

We Want A Band!

Believe In Yourself

Recorded March 7 - 11, 1994

### **Notasulga, Alabama**

*Peacemaker*

(Inspired by Robert anderson, b. February 21, 1942.)

*I'll Be Somewhere Listening For My Name*

(Inspired by Emma Ware, b. October 17, 1917.)

*Twelve Little Children In My Backyard*

(Inspired by Willie Mae Ray, b. April 13, 1935)

*Enjoy Work It's A Blessing*

(Inspired by Carolyn McClain, b. April 19, 1927 )

*Grandmother's Song*

(Performed by Carolyn McClain)

Recorded January 23 - 29, 1998

### **Gaylesville, Alabama**

*My Little Town*

(Ethel May Jones, b. December 21, 1918, and Judson Chesnut, b. April 10, 1916)

*40 Miles Of The Railroad*

(Inspired by Dale McWhorter, b. June 4, 1928)

*If I Were A Family Doctor*

(Inspired by Walter Frederick Browder, b. January 23, 1926, )

*Pick A Bale Of Cotton For The Sun Goes Down*  
(Inspired by Jim Cavin, b. June 13, 1919)

Recorded March 18, 1994

**Packers Bend, Alabama**  
*On The Banks Of The Alabama River*  
(Mr. Slater Huff., b. July 6, 1925)

*Wasn't We Blessed*  
(Inspired by Emma Timmons, b. August 26, 1936, Mamie Lee Westry (Timos), b. October 20, 1925, and Sam Westry, b. August 24, 1920)

*What Is It Like To Grow Up In A Town That Doesn't Have A Town To Grow Up*  
(Inspired by Ben O. Bumpers, Jr. , b. March 7, 1928)

Recorded March 13, 1997

**Akron, Alabama**  
*So Glad To Be Alive*  
(Inspired by W.C. Walton, 1912, July 22nd)

*Had A Mule By The Name Of Tom*  
(Inspired by Ann Butler Taylor, b. August 12, 1896)

*To Make A Life Of Your Own*  
(Inspired by Mr. Thomas Ramey 22nd day of August, 1915 and Mrs. Jet, b.1917)

**Sunshine, Alabama**  
*Sugar*  
(Inspired by Leaner Belle Johnson, b. June the 7th, 1917, Hale County)

*Bus Driver*  
(Inspired by Alex 'Frog' Robertson, b. November 6, 1943, Hale County.)

**Oakman, Alabama**  
*Chicky, Chicky, Boom, Boom*  
(Inspired by Douglas Milton, b. January 1, 1900 )

*Wash Day Is Every Day*  
(Inspired by Lillian Diehl, b. March 14, 1922, Dana Williams, b. October 6 1919)

*Black As A Cold, Cold Miner*  
(Inspired by Frank Posey, b. 1920)

*Old York Town*

(Inspired Harold Corry, b. May 13, 1929, and Richard Corry, b. May 19, 1963)

Recorded January 23 - 28, 1995  
(Cassette)

### **Spring Garden, Alabama**

*Home Is Where The Heart Is*

(Inspired by Luther Welsh, b. February 6, 1926)

*Raised My Kids In A Postal Sack (Zip Code 36275)*

(Inspired by Grace Savage, b. February 23, 1920, Piedmont, Alabama)

*Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful You*

(Inspired by Lela Parker Johnson, b. August 9, 1906)

Recorded January 9 - 15, 1998

### **Loachapoka, Alabama**

*Alabama My Home*

(Inspired by George Rowell)

*24 Biscuits A Day*

(Inspired by Pompey Lee Dowdell)

*Let's Play Ball*

(Inspired by Frank Evans, b. December 16, 1921)

### **Goodsprings, Alabama**

(T.W. Martin)

*We're The People*

(Inspired by Verna Wallace, b. June 5, 1925. & Rick Aldridge, b. October 14, 1954)

*Hey Coal Miner*

(Inspired by Atha Thacker. b. April 11, 1906)

Recorded by Brandon Morris & Landon Waid, February 18, 1994

*Decoration Day*

(Inspired by Patti Logan)

*Clicking Wheel*

(Inspired by Charles Copeland, b. October 27, 1916)

Recorded February 21-25, 1994

### **Collinsville, Alabama**

*Guadalajara, Mexico*

(Inspired by Danny Garcia b. March 3, 1964)

Recorded November 18, 1994



*Living In The Country*  
(Inspired by Russell Smith, b. October 15, 1923. )

**Coffeeville, Alabama**

*My Charge To Keep*  
(Inspired by Arthur Slater, Clarke County, b. March 24, 1929)

*Lord, Guide Me Through*  
(Inspired by Betty McIntyre, b. June 15, 1930)

*My Mother Worked*  
(Inspired by Easter H. Fluker, b. April 22, 1904, and Edwina Hart, b. March 2, 1946)

*Got To Get Ahead*  
(Inspired by Earl G. Stringer, b. March 5, 1909)  
Recorded February 7, 1994

**Mellow Valley, Alabama**

*Tenant Farmer*  
(Inspired by James Fargason, b. September 20, 1919  
& Mrs. Mary Fargason, b. February 1, 1926 ).

*The Things We Did With What We Had*  
(Inspired by Mrs. Ruby Denney, b. September 11, 1914)

*Working In The Textile Mill*  
(Inspired by Mr. Junior Kennedy, b. June 30, 1925, & Mrs. Rebecca Elouise Bence Kennedy, b. April 15, 1926 )  
Recorded January 27, 1997

*Black Jack Ridge*  
(Inspired by Mr. Zenus Windsor, b. February 3, 1935)

**Wadley, Alabama**

*Lillie Mae*  
(Inspired by Lillie Mae Stewart, b. 1904)

*I've Got Work To Do*  
(Inspired by Jerry Hall, b. January 28, 1943)  
Recorded March 20, 1995

*In These Days Of Happiness*  
(Inspired by Ruthie James)

*If You Want To Get Ahead, Go To College*  
(Inspired by Junior Reese)

*'The Charming Black Mustache'*

(Sung by Lillie Mae Stewart, b. 1904)

Recorded March 24, 1995

### **Lockhart, Alabama**

*Why Not Me, Lord*

(Inspired by Gladys Milton, b. May 26, 1924)

Recorded February 13, 1995

*Swing In A Hurry Sandy Land*

(Inspired by Murry Johnson, b. January 16, 1923, and Nan Johnson, b. March 11, 1923)

*I Am Yours, You Are Mine*

(Inspired by Derlie Barnes, b. March 31, 1903)

*Living On The Dixie Line*

(Inspired by Milner Perry, b. December 2, 1936 )

Recorded February 13-17

### **Coffee Springs, Alabama**

*Hard Times, Good Times In Coffee Springs*

(Inspired by Thelma Couch, b. January 19, 1914, Lisa Vaughan, and Lottie Dauphin, b. 1922.)

*The Ballad Of Them Bones*

(Inspired by Patricia Smith. 1994)

*We Cherish Those Times*

(Inspired by Karen Cato, October 9, 1934)

*Living In The Country*

(Inspired by Bill Nichols, b. June 25, 1929, Katie Lane, b. March 21, 1944, Etherlrine B. Laster, Mr. Thames, and Rillie Simmons, b. January 16, 1915)

Recorded April 22, 1994

### **Minneapolis, Minnesota**

***(Four Winds School)***

*Life Is A Choice*

(Inspired by Nathia Hampton, b. August 9, 1965)

*To All My Relations*

(Inspired by Willard Joseph Male Bear, b. November 6, 1944, Lakota)

*Tell People You Love Them*

(Inspired by Windy Downwind, b. 1955, Anishinabe)

*Billisummaa*

(Inspired by Amanuel Tessema, b. 1966, Oromo, Ethiopia)

Recorded May, 2002

***(Whittier School)***

*Puerto Rico*

(Inspired Puerto Luz Gomez Fraticelli Horsely, b. 1938, Puerto Rico)

*My Life Is A Journey*

(Inspired by Bob Hamlett, b. March 29, 1922)

*Somalia*

(Inspired by Mohammed Hassan, b. August 17, 1940, Somalia)

*Keep On Moving, Don't Stand Still*

(Inspired by Lillian Jackson, b. September 9, 1900)

Recorded October 31, 1988

(Cassette/Video)

***(Heart Of The Earth Survival School 1990)***

*Dun-Away-Mah-Gi-Nuck*

*(All My Relations)*

(Inspired by Dennis Jones. 1990)

*Pipe Song*

(Inspired by Ted Means. 1990)

*What Does A Treaty*

*(Mean To You)*

(Inspired by Bill Means. 1990)

*I Believe In The Old Way*

(Inspired by Floyd Hand and Bear Kronick.1990)

*Heart Of The Earth*

(Inspired by Clyde Bellecourt. 1990)

***(Interdistrict Downtown School 2006)***

*My Name is Standing Bear*

*(Honoring Standing Bear)*

Born March 19, 1926 in Time, Pennsylvania.

Iroquois Elder, Hollywood Actor, Wild West Show Horseman & World War II Veteran

*Break Out Of That Box*

*(Honoring Stanley Brown)*

Born 1956 in Harlem, New York.

Harlem Boys Choir Member & School Teacher

*Love Is A Covenant Of Faith*

*(Honoring Mehdi Eslamou)*

Born in August 1960 in Tehran, Iran.

Persian Historian & Sufi Immigrant from Iran.

I Chose The Worst Fighting Time  
(Honoring Mani Vannavong)  
Born 1972 in Laos  
Lao Refugee & Metro Transit Employee.

**(Interdistrict Downtown School 2007)**

We Must Do Our Best  
“WAA INAAN SAMAYNAA WIXII  
AWOODEENA AH SI AAN U GAARNO GUUL”  
(Honoring Nasra Aden)  
Born June 1, 1972 in Mogadishu, Somalia  
Islamic Refugee from the Civil War in Somalia

Reach Out & Spread Your Wings  
(Honoring Charles Nichols, Sr.)  
Born 1925 in Duluth, Minnesota  
Presidential Advisor, Director of Vocational Education & Founder of Flying Club for Youth of Color.

To Have Respect  
Jang-Yeon Park  
Born 1970 in Seoul, South Korea  
South Korean Pro-Democracy Activist & Nuclear Physicist

I Am Proud To Be Ojibwe  
(Honoring Johnny Smith)  
Born Red Lake, Minnesota. Ojibwa name Waysaquonabe (Yellow Feather)  
Anishanabe Ojibwa Instructor & Keeper of the Drum

**(Cityview Performing Arts Magnet Elementary 2007)**

Change, Change, Change  
(Honoring Reverend Albert Gallmon)  
Reverend of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church  
Born in 1952 in Tampa, Florida

(Honoring Steve Xiong)  
Hmong Refugee from Laos and Bilingual Education Teacher  
Born in a small village in Laos in 1965

**(Cityview Performing Arts Magnet Elementary 2008)**

Get An Education  
(Honoring Judge Allen Oleisky)  
Born in Pierre, South Dakota  
Moved to Minneapolis in 1947

Freedom, Freedom Over Me  
(Honoring Lawrence Brown)  
Born September 7, 1919 | Tuskegee Airman | Prisoner of War

**(Minneapolis Summer Parks Program 2006)**

Water Is Love, Love Is Water

(Honoring Sharon Day)

Anishinaabe Ojibwe Water Protector from the Martin Clan.

Given the name Singing Wolf.

Butterflies Dancing

(Honoring Vicki Bonk)

Born 1951, in St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Naturalist. Protector of Monarch Butterflies & Native Habitat.

Keep On Coaching

(Honoring George Booker)

Born December 21, 1955 in Minneapolis.

Augsburg College Graduate in Chemical Dependency Counseling. Coach, Mentor & Volunteer.

**St. Paul, Minnesota**

*(Talmud Torah School)*

In A World Without End

*(Inspired by Dalia Vlodoover)*

When I Was Young In Poland

*(Inspired by Jules Zaidenweber)*

America, My Home

*(Inspired by Gerts Tseyglin)*

Big Little People

*(Inspired by Phil Ravitzky & Betty Agranoff)*

*(Dayton's Bluff)*

All The Way To Paradise

*(Inspired by Yang Chang, b. 1940, Laos)*

Pick Up, Pick Up

*(Inspired by Karin DePaul, b. November 27, 1943)*

Keep On Living

*(Inspired by Elizabeth Lucio, b. May 13, 1969)*

I Love America

*(Inspired Neal Thao, b. 1956, Laos)*

All Of You Should Be Grateful

(Inspired by Zolena Wynne, b. January 26, 1959, Williamsburg, Virginia)

**(Paul & Sheila Wellstone Elementary 2007)**

When All Do Better

(Honoring Jeff Blodgett)

Born May 7, 1961, in St. Paul.

Graduate from Carleton College. Campaign Manager for Senator Paul Wellstone.

Jump Up At The Sun

(Honoring Willetha 'Toni' Carter)

Carleton College Graduate.

Worked for IBM Corporation. St. Paul County Commissioner. Mother of Mayor Melvin Carter.

**Heron Lake, Minnesota**

*Just A Working On The Farm*

(Inspired by Eunice McClune, b. January 21, 1936 )

*Maria*

(Inspired by Maria Guadalupe Reyes, b. December 12, 1966)

*A Real Paradise*

(Inspired by Herman Becker. June 2, 1916)

*Life Has A Way*

(Inspired by Warren Lehman Sontag, b. April 2, 1929)

**Nerstrand, Minnesota**

*Still Doing Good In The Big Woods*

(Inspired by Wilmar Bauernfeind, b. 1916)

Var Så God, May You Live Well

(Inspired by Earl Bunde, b. February 22, 1925)

*Love, Loving You*

(Inspired by Helen Kispert, b. June 30, 1913)

That's A Long Time Ago

(Inspired by Opal Bollenbach Wolf, b. November 8, 1917)

Recorded April 8 - 20, 1998

(Cassette)

**Naytahwaush, Minnesota**

*Again, Again, Again*

(Inspired by Phillis Turpin, b. March 21, 1924)



*I Thank You*

(Inspired by Jean Accobee, b. December 11, 1935)

*Gichimanidoo Is Watching Over You*

(Inspired by Ken Coleman, b. July 31, 1935)

*Turn Off That T.V.*

(Inspired by Clyde Este, b. March 29, 1921)

Autumn Splendor (poem)

Recorded November 14-20, 1997

(cassette/video)

**Holdingfold, Minnesota**

*Moonshine*

(Inspired by Norbie Kollodge. 1993)

*Back Then*

(Inspired by Bernard Huls. 1993))

*A Woman's Work Is Never Done*

(Inspired by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hennek & Walter Lyscher. 1993)

*Auntie, Auntie Over*

(Inspired by Felix Skwira. 1993)

Recorded 1993

(Cassette)

**St. Cloud, Minnesota**

*I Dream Of A World*

(Inspired by Patty Wetterling. Grade 5th. Discovery Elementary. 1995)

*Everybody Is Special*

(Inspired by Patty Wetterling. Grade 5th. Discovery Elementary. 1995)

*On The Day When The Children Come Home*

(Inspired by Patty Wetterling. Grade 5th. Discovery Elementary. 1995)

*Candy Man*

(Inspired by Patty Wetterling. Grade 5th. Discovery Elementary. 1995)

*Secrets*

(Poem)

**Golden Valley, Minnesota**

*Back When I Was Young*

(Inspired by O. Donald Smith, b. July 21, 1921)

*Ballad of Melvin Jones*

(Inspired by Melvin Jones, b. 1945., Red Lake)

**Byron, Minnesota**

*While The Bear Goes Looking For Honey*

(Children's Song. 1994)

**Wabasso, Minnesota**

*Hauling Freight, No Fences*

(Inspired by Gerald Johanneck, b. 1912)

*Talking Farm Small Farm Blues*

(Elder interviews. 5th Grade. 1990)

**Loucan, Minnesota**

*My Special Dream*

(Children's Song. Grades 2 & 3. 1987)

*Love Is Love*

(Children's Song. Grade 2. 1987)

*Means The World To Me*

(Children's Song. Grade 3rd. 1987)

*Lou-Can*

(Children's Song. Grade 4th. 1987)

**Hawley, Minnesota**

*The Boat Is Ready*

(Say Kham Latgnotha, b. June 5, 1953, Vien Tiane, Laos)

*Flowers of Innocence*

(Inspired by Alma Young, b. April 25, 1906, and Mabel Gunderson, b. October 18, 1912)

*No Class Distinction*

(Inspired by Olaf Roy Lorenzo Wicker, b. December 12, 1916 and Marion Bergseld, b. January 25, 1929.)

**Stillwater, Minnesota**

*Young Stillwater Of My Youth*

(Inspired by Jean Schad, b. January 26, 1932, and Ron Schad, b. January 26, 1932)

*Tidings Of Comfort & Joy*  
(Inspired by Rheinhold Guse)

*I Don't Believe In Violence*  
(Inspired by the writings of Martin Luther King. 1991)

### **Duluth, Minnesota**

*Big Lake*  
(Children's Song. 1989)

### **Northshore, Minnesota**

*My World Is A Small Place*  
Inspired by Marie Brown, b. July 9, 1918

*Living On A North Country Farm*  
(Inspired by Helen Hendrickson, b. October 20, 1926, and Caroline Marino, b. January 30, 1948)

*Caste Your Nets Out On The Water*  
(Inspired by Clifford Sundstrom, b. January 3, 1929)

*My Daddy Was A Socialist*  
(Inspired by Ludwig Solem, b. 1905)

### **Gaylord, Minnesota**

*No Jobs In Texas*  
(Inspired by Ana Bell Rodriquez, b. October 23, 1978, Yazmin Rubio, b. September 29, 1983, and Ana Bell Rodriquez, b. October 23, 1978.)

*24 German Dollars*  
(Inspired by Mr. Watercott)

### **Rollingstone, Minnesota**

*I Like Tripen*  
(Inspired by Jeanne Hoffman, b. January 29, 1926)

*Rollingstone, My Home*  
(Inspired Mr. Russ Rattunde, Mrs. Wanda Rattunde, Mrs. Jane Maschka and Mr. Eugene Smith)

*Will You Play With Me Grandma'*  
(Inspired by Marcella Wise, Winfred Monahan, Bernita Speltz, Theresa Walter, Mildred Vaughn, Winfred Monahan.)

*I'm A Farming Man*  
(Inspired by Ed Maus and Tina Lehnertz)  
Recorded January 18, 1997

**Barnum, Minnesota**

*Never Say Goodbye*  
(Inspired by Ervin, b. 1922, and Shirley Peterson, b. July 2, 1927)

*In A Family Of Love*  
(Inspired by Welma Norberg, b. June 10, 1914)  
*Long Gone*  
(Inspired by Edwin Manni, b. March 19, 1914)

Recorded 1998  
(Cassette/Video)

**St. Joseph, Minnesota**

*Great Big Small World*  
(Inspired by Donald Schneider, b. October 1, 1932)

*People Get Lonely*  
(Inspired by Roman Klein, b. June 21, 1912, and Lucille Klein, b. December 20, 1919.)

*We Made It*  
(Inspired by Lucille Weyer, b. 1926)

*You'll Be Blest*  
(Inspired by Sister Marlene Meierhofer)

**St. Charles, Minnesota**

*All Of You Are Lucky*  
(Inspired by Xou Louprasong, Laos, on October 10, 1936)

*The Barn Is Round*

**International Falls, Minnesota**

*Out On The Waters Of Old Rainy*  
(Inspired by Don 'Buck' Johnson, b. September 30, 1926)

*To Have So Many Love Me*  
(Inspired by Marie Karsnia, b. July 16, 1911)

*My Name Is Louise*  
(Inspired by Louise Larson, b. November 26, 1902)

*I'm A Logger, Loggin' Man*  
(Inspired by Oscar Bergstrom, b. May 31, 1918)

Recorded October 3 - 9, 1997  
(Cassette/Video)

**Granite Falls, Minnesota**

*Have Love for Your Country*  
(Inspired by Bob Lovell, b. April 12, 1911)

*Everyone Has A Story*  
(Inspired by Dick Peterson, b. )  
*My People Are The Dakota*  
(Irene Howell, b. November 24, 1931)

Recorded 1999  
(Cassette/Video)

**Cannon Falls, Minnesota**

Here In Cannon Falls  
(Inspired by Agnes Lundberg, b. June 25, 1911)

Whoopee I, Whoopee O, It's To The Field I Go  
(Inspired by John Burch, b. May 2, 1915)

Homemade Pie  
(Inspired by Marie Hernke, b. June 4, 1917)

My Mother's Polka  
(Inspired by Al Roiger, b. July 1, 1916)

Recorded March 12, 1998  
(Cassette/Video)

**Lac Courte Oreilles, Wisconsin**

No One Can Take My Religion From Me  
(Inspired by Lucy Begay, OGABEGIZHIKOKWE, b. May 26, 1907 and Ruth Carley, MIZHAKWAD, March 23, 1921)

The Drum Is The Center Of My Life  
(Inspired by Buck Barber, BASHKWAYGON, b. 1931)

Everytime I Look At Someone They're Related To Me  
(Inspired by Clara Beebe, OQUAGAN, b. )  
Recorded August 1999 (CD)

**LaCrosse, Wisconsin**

*Little Mother*  
(Inspired by Helen Schlicht, b. January, 1921, WWII nurse)

*As You Tell Stories*

Inspired by Bob Daley, b. January 21, 1927

*It's Been A Long Road*

Inspired by Donald Blackhawk, b. 1929, Ho-Chunk)

*This Is Where I Call Home*

Inspired by Thai Vue, b. May 25, 1953)

Recorded February 25, 2002

### **Birchwood, Wisconsin**

*There's No Place On Earth Like The Town Of Birchwood*

(Inspired by Marie Telitz, b. April 30, 1921)

*Just Plain Ed*

(Inspired by Ed Nilsen, b. 1911)

*All Around The Town*

(Inspired by Peg Bemis, b. February 12, 1923, and Dorothy Fechter, b. July 31, 1927)

February 20 - 26, 1998

### **Flambeau, Wisconsin**

*That's The Way Things Are*

(Inspired by Elaine, b. February 1, 1930 and Bud Fiser, b. November 1, 1931)

*So Thankful Am I*

(Inspire by Bill Balko, b. October 13, 1916)

*Always Learn All That You Can Learn In This World*

(Inspired by Jim McCabe, b. 1919)

December 1 - 5, 1997

### **New Berlin, Wisconsin**

*What Do I Call Home*

(Children's Song. 1992)

*Homeless*

(Children's Song. 1992)

*I Want*

(Children's Song. 1992)

*In My Neighborhood*

(Children's Song. 1992)

### **Houlton, Wisconsin**



*Pick Me Up*  
(Inspired by Houlton Elementary 1st Grade. 1995)

*The Whole World Is My Friend*  
(Inspired by Houlton Elementary 1st Grade. 1995)

*When I'm Alone*  
(Inspired by Houlton Elementary 2nd Grade. 1995)

*We're All Part Of A Family*  
(Inspired by Houlton Elementary 3rd Grade. 1995)

*On The Bus*  
(Inspired by Houlton Elementary 5th Grade. 1995)

### **Talmidge / Cook, Nebraska**

*Big Ship Going Down*  
(Inspired by Clarence Hupka, b. February 7, 1922)

*The Little Man Takes What He Gets*  
(Inspired by Louise Howe, b. 1916)

### **Stella, Nebraska**

*Living On Holy Ground*  
(Inspired by Earl Hicks, b. 1907)

*Down On The Missouri* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Inspired by Jesse Courtney Barker, b. 1904, Nemaha County)

### **Hay Springs, Nebraska**

*How Long Is A Long Time*  
(Inspired by Grace Johnson b. October 24, 1909)

*Tell Me Way Back When*  
(Inspired by Leonard Peters, June, 1909)

*So Thankful For My Life*  
(Inspired by Mabell Kadlecek, b. August 2, 1910)

### **Henderson & Bradshaw Nebraska**

*We Share God's Love*  
(Inspired by Walter Ott)

*Bradshaw, Back When I Was Young*  
(Inspired by Mildred Hopkins)

*Nebraska, My Home*

(Inspired by Mildred Jean Hopkins, *B. September 30, 1922*

*Words: Ms. Sharon Bishop's 10th Grade Nebraska Literature and Comprehension Class with Larry Long, Patty Kakac, Jodi Ritter, and Eddie Allen.*

### **Metter, Georgia**

*I'll Be Here, God Willing*

(Inspired by Willette Watson, b. February 14, 1917 )

*Crossing The Border*

(Inspired by Guillermo "Willie" Gomez, b. April 15, 1959 Mexico City)

*You Can't Do Better Than the Town of Metter*

(Inspired by Robert Barwick "Skeet" Trapnell, b. January 16, 1915)

*Glory, Hallelujah*

(Inspired by Frankie Boykin, b. February 25, 1916)

Recorded November 13, 1998

(Cassette)

### **Flandreau, South Dakota**

*One Day Your Time Will Come*

Inspired by Andy Wiese, b. March 3, 1914

*No One Can Take These Memories From Me*

*Inspired by Vernon Bechen, b. April 6, 1922*

*Time Moves On*

Inspired by Agnes Ross, b. October 27, 1910

### **Belle Fourche, South Dakota**

*Anytime You Report A Birth*

(Inspired by Faye Kennedy, b. July 20, 1919)

*Live It Up When You Are Young*

(Inspired by George Mortimer, b. August 11, 1909)

*Cowboy Song*

(Inspired by Mr. Jim Newland, b. 1911 )

*School House*

(Inspired by Ruth Fishel, b. August 11, 1911

and Floy Washburn, b. May 19, 1919)

Recorded May 16, 1997

### **Spearfish, South Dakota**

*Spearfish Is Home To Me*

(Inspired by Linfred Schuttler, b. November 2, 1924)

*Wonderful, Beautiful*

(Inspired by Hazel Repass, b. 1904, Trail, Minnesota)

*Don't Let Anything Bring You Down*

(Inspired by Louise Smock, b. January 1, 1925)

*Through the Land of Chief Red Cloud, Together We Go*

(Inspired by Oliver Swanson, b. October 25, 1924)

Recorded September, 1999

(Cassette/Video)

## **Howard, South Dakota**

*Canova*

(Inspired by Gladys Shaw, b. November 8, 1910)

*Ate Baseball Three Times A Day*

(Inspired by Spike, b. Sept. 27, 1901 and Max Miller, b. January 25, 1920 )

*I'm A Mail Man On A Country Road*

(Inspired by Vince Breuer, b. 1923 )

*I'm A Survivor*

(Inspired by Sigurd Andenas, b. September 2, 1918)

Recorded 1997

## **Ducktown, Tennessee**

*I Had A Very Good Life In Ducktown*

(Inspired by Claudia Beckler, b. January 26, 1913)

*So What Does That Make You*

(Inspired by Louise Jones, b. September 16, 1918)

*Jack Of All Trades*

(Inspired by Guy Burger, b. February 24, 1921)

*I'm The Happiest Man In The State Of Tennessee*

(Inspired by Carmel Gibson, b. August 11, 1928)

*Ma-Maw*

(Inspired by Cora Adcock, October 10, 1920)

*I'm A Country Girl*

(Inspired by Blanche Kimsey Nicholson Brown, b. November 26, 1911, Turtletown)

*In This Basin I Call Home*

(Inspired by Bernice Brooks, b. February 11, 1925 )

*We Are Here For A Purpose*

(Inspired by Virginia Polly Morgan, b. )

Recorded 1998 - 1999

(Cassette)

### **Edmund, Oklahoma**

*Get Your Eggs from the Chickens And Milk From the Cows*

(Inspired by Henrietta and George Parker)

*Give Me Your Hand*

(Inspired by Mr. & Mrs. Blue Jacket)

*Saturday Night*

(Inspired by Lib Wilbanks, Alma Bolvin, and Carol Moles)

*December 7th, 1941*

(Inspired by Burt Canham and Betty Canham)

*You Are My Friend*

(Children's Song. 1992)

### **Varnum, Oklahoma**

*It Takes a Lot of People*

(Children's Song. 1989)

*Polly*

(Inspired by Ms. Polly, Headstart Teacher, 1989)

### **Davenport, Oklahoma**

*Barnyard*

(Children's Song. 1988)

### **Okemah, Oklahoma**

*Talking Okemah Town*

(Children's Song. David Robison's 7th Grade Class. 1987.)

*Oklahoma*

(Children's Song. Mrs. K. Duke's 5th Grade Class. 1987)

*Okemah Waltz*

(Children's Song, David Robison's 6th Grade Class. 1987)

*November 9 - 12, 1987*

**Langston, Oklahoma**

*Langston*

(Children's Song. Mrs. Shirley Davis's 7th/8th Grade. 1987)

*Oh Freedom*

(Children's Song. Mrs. Esters 5th/6th Grade Class. 1987)

**Coyle, Oklahoma**

*Ballad of the Gret Land Rush Betrayal*

(Inspired by Edna Ferber. Ann Johnston's 8th Grade Class. 1987)

Recorded November 16 - 20, 1987

**Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**

*Good Morning*

(Children's Song. 3rd Grade. 1987)

*Many Years From Now*

(Children's Song. 4th Grade. 1988)

*Beautiful Puerto Rico*

(Children's Song. 4th Grade. 1988)

**Seiling, Oklahoma**

*Family*

(Children's Song. 2nd Grade. 1988)

*In The Summer*

(Children's Song. 4th Grade. 1988)

*Animals*

(Children's Song. 4th Grade. 1988)

*Schools Out*

(Children's Song. 2nd Grade. 1988)

Recorded May 5, 1988

**Bishop, California**

*My Earliest Memory*

(Inspired by Virginia 'Yan' Kinney, b. 1919)

*Packers, Mules, and Mountains*

(Inspired by Walter Arthur Schober, b. November 23, 1944 )

*I Call This Land My Home*

(Inspired by Steven Barlow, b. June 23, 1928)

Recorded September 12 - 21, 1997  
(Cassette)

**Eden Prairie, Minnesota**

**(Cedar Ridge Elementary 2005)**

What Are They Doing That For  
(Honoring Lisa Bellanger)  
Born 1961 in Cass Lake, Minnesota  
Anishinabe Ojibwa Teacher and Activist

You Don't Know How Lucky You Are To Live In A Free Country  
(Honoring Thu Van Nguyen)  
Born February 13, 1946 in south Vietnam.  
South vietnamese veteran and Reeducation Camp Survivor

The Whole World Around  
(Honoring Gloria Winans)  
Born 1948 in Nebraska  
African-American historian and Celebrator of diversity

I Come From A Long Line Of Old Times  
(Honoring Marie Wittenberg)  
Born in 1935 on a farm in Eden Prairie..  
Lifelong Eden Prairie Resident and Pioneer Days Historian

**(Eden Lake Elementary 2005)**

Eden Prairie, I Love  
(Honoring Helen Anderson)  
Born July 23, 1911 in Aitkin, Minnesota.  
Historian and Author of "Eden Prairie: The First 100 Years"

I Want Peace For My People Of Somalia  
(Honoring Mohamed Essa)  
Born in Yemen. Grew up in Somalia.  
Refugee from Somalia and Community Worker

You Know What  
(Honoring Bob Hallett)  
Born 1937 in a little farming/railroad town called Glenwood, Minnesota  
Navy Veteran, Principal and Community Volunteer

I'm a Chinese Cuban American  
(Honoring Miriam Lay)  
Born November 4, 1938 in Cuba.  
Chinese-Cuban American and Teacher.

**(Forest Hills Elementary 2004)**

Changes

(Honoring Leslie Ellis)

Born 1927 in Richmond, Virginia

African-American Army veteran and Medical Researcher

Brothertown

(Honoring Joan Schadewald)

Born March 1933 in Redwood Falls, Minnesota

First Nation Brothertown Elder & Cowgirl

Beautiful, Young Children

(Honoring Leonid Sonkin)

Born June 5, 1931 in the Ukraine

Ukrainian Jewish Immigrant, Siberian Labor Camp Survivor and Red Army Veteran

**(Forest Hills Elementary 2007)**

We Followed The Rain

(Honoring Ibado Abdi)

Grew up nomadic, caring for goats and cows in Somalia. Refugee.

Around We Go

(Honoring Linda Bergman)

Born 1948 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Chinese-Japanese Heritage. Teacher.

There's No Place Like Home

(Honoring Mark Kraabel)

Born March 14, 1951.

Grew up on a dairy farm in Central Minnesota.

Drafter & Designer.

**(Oak Point Elementary 2005)**

Peace Above, Peace Below

(Honoring Mani Batchu)

Born 1946 in India

Hindu Immigrant from India

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El Salvador

(Honoring Eleanora Cananda)

Born August 15, 1931 in El Salvador.

Survivor of the Civil War in el Salvador

Iran

(Honoring Mahin Hashemi)

Born August 1, 1937 in Iran  
Baha'i Refugee from Iran

Three Strong Women From Eden Prairie  
(Honoring Rachel Hjorth, Irene Swartz, Dorothy Dotty)  
Eden Prairie Oral Historians & Lifelong Residents

- Irene Schwartz.born February 18, 1919 in Eden Prairie, Minnesota
- Rachel Hjorth born July 24, 1916 in Milaca, Minnesota.
- Dorothy Dotty born June 14, 1916 in Eden Prairie, Minnesota

**(Prairie View Elementary 2004)**

The Sky, The Earth, The Ocean  
(Honoring Bhavna "Bonnie" Balkrishna Shah)  
Born in the same hometown as Gandhi, near Bombay.  
Computer Programmer.

In Those Days When I Was Young  
(Honoring Russell Hanson)  
Born October 21, 1920, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
Classroom Mentor and Community volunteer

Ollie, Ollie Skratthult  
(Honoring Carl Fredrick Peterson & his father, Carl Hjalmar Peterson)  
Born during the Great Depression  
Businessman and Son of Swedish RCA Recording Artist

Be Kind To All That Live  
(Ballad of Helen Tsuchiya)  
Born 1924, on a farm in California.  
Japanese-American internment Camp Survivor

**St. Louis Park, Minnesota**

**(Cedar Manor Intermediate Center 2006)**

We Should Love One Another  
(Honoring Margot DeWilde)  
Born July 18, 1921 in the Netherlands. World War II Holocaust Survivor)

It's the Right Time Now  
(Honoring Melkamu Negeri)  
Oromo Minister and Refugee from Ethiopia

Just Be Who You Are  
(Honoring Patricia Sequeira)  
Teacher and recent U.S. Citizen from Calcutta, India

Katrina



(Honoring Stacey Bruno)  
Hurricane Katrina Survivor from New Orleans

**(Cedar Manor Intermediate Center 2007)**

If You Love Somebody  
(Honoring Portia Boyd)  
Born June 8<sup>th</sup> in the 1930's. Went to an all-black school in Bartow Florida.  
School Board Member and Millinery Store Owner

One More Day  
(Honoring Bob Jorvig)  
Born March 14, 1921. Ski Instructor and WWII & Korean War Veteran

Way Down in the Savannah  
(Honoring Koffi Mbairamadji)  
Born in Chad. African Storyteller and Author.

Hitler Kaput!  
(Honoring Sabrina Zimering)  
Born February 24, 1923 in Piotrkow, Poland. Author and Survivor of WWII

**(Cedar Manor Intermediate Center 2008)**

It's a Long Way Home  
(Honoring Abdirizak Mahammud)  
Born in Somalia in July, 1963.

Tikkun Olam  
(Honoring Bobbie Goldfarb)  
In Judaism Abraham had a tent with four open doors and that is embodied in us.

Passion, Passion  
(Honoring Roland Larson)  
World War II Navy Veteran.

Let Me Do It Now  
(Honoring Louise Ross)  
Born September 25, 1920. Grew up in a small segregated town in Missouri.

**(Cedar Manor Intermediate Center 2009)**

We're Moving Out Now  
(Honoring Gene Carr)  
Battle of the Bulge World War II Veteran

I'm Looking For Love Today  
(Honoring Kari Miller)

Born Oktober 12, 1971. Raising funds to assist women and victims of war in Uganda)

Herzegovina and Bosnia My Home  
(Honoring Zlata Mucic')

Born in 1964. Refugee from war. Arrived in Minnesota in 1995.

Are You Ready  
(Honoring Richard Rasmussen)

Born December 22, 1948 in Montana. Indigneous. Grew up in Old Town, Oklahoma.

**Edina, Minnesota**

**(Countryside Elementary 2006)**

Treat Other People How You Want To Be Treated Yourself  
(Honoring Albert Alexander)

Banker and College Athlete

Born July 6, 1949 in Meridian, Mississippi

Follow Your Dreams  
(Honoring Ken Dragseth)

School Superintendent and Vietnam Veteran

Born September 10, 1945 on a Dairy Farm in South Dakota

I'm Proud to Be Chinese American  
(Honoring Sharon Ming)

Businesswoman and Community Volunteer

Born April 9, 1951. Grew up in Cleveland, Ohio.

Always Care for Your Neighbor  
(Honoring Shrin Murthy)

Born in India. Hindu. Vice President for Dairy Queen.

**(Countryside Elementary 2007)**

Always Be Good  
(Honoring Matheos Balafas0

Born in 1936. Restaurant Owner and World War II Survivor from Greece.

Make It Better The Whole World Around  
(Honoring Joe Cavanaugh)

Born November 29, 1958. Founder of Youth Frontiers and Mentor.

Thank You For Having Me Here  
(Honoring Jean Fountain)

Born May 2, 1942 in Virginia. Civil Rights Activist, Businesswoman and Volunteer

Namaste

(Honoring Kamala Puram)  
Born in 1956. Businesswoman and Mentor from India.

### **Hopkins, Minnesota**

#### **(Eisenhower Elementary 2006)**

I'm Free Now  
(Honoring Lul Gelani)  
Born in 1957 in Shangani, Somalia. Somali Recording Artist and Care Provider  
The Things That Matter Most to Me in My Life  
(Honoring Alan Page)  
Born August 7, 1945. Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and Minnesota Viking Hall of Famer

I Grew Up in a Town Called Hopkins  
(Honoring Jim Shirley)  
Born in 1936. Lifelong Hopkins Resident and Volunteer

#### **(Eisenhower Elementary 2007)**

To Be An Honest Person  
(Honoring Paul Bengston)  
Born December 3, 1933. All-State Wrestling Coach and School Board Member

When You Work Hard  
(Honoring Sheri Davis)  
Born in 1947. Teacher and School Board Member from Harlem, New York

Monrovia, Liberia  
(Honoring Rolanda DeShield)  
Born May 31, 1977. Bank Teller and Liberian Civil War Survivor

Tikkun Olam  
(Honoring Zelia Goldberg)  
Sephardic Jew from Panama and ESL Volunteer

#### **(Eisenhower Elementary 2008)**

Every Time a Child is Born  
(Honoring Andi (Andrea) Adelman in memory of her son, Paul)  
Born in 1947. Grew up in Highland Park, St. Paul.

Namashkar  
(Honoring Gita Kar)  
Born May 23, 1943 in Bombay, India.

The Truth Never Lies  
(Honoring Ken Novak)

Born in 1929. Grew up in Crosby-Ironton, Minnesota. Korean War Veteran. Basketball Coach.

### **Brooklyn Center, Minnesota**

#### **(Earle Brown Elementary School 2006)**

Soldier Welcome Home

(Honoring Ralph Van Beusekom)

Born October 28, 1929. Air Force Pilot and Farm Co-op Employee

Nothing But The Love Of Freedom

(Honoring Alice Cooper)

Born January 25, 1953 in Crawford, Mississippi. Teacher and Daughter of a Sharecropper

Abajo en Mexico-Down to Mexico

(Honoring Maggie Proft)

Born in 1941. Hair Sylist and Recent United States Citizen from Tijuana, Mexico.

We're the Hmong

(Honoring Chia Yang)

Born 1973 in Laos. Hmong Oral Historian and Author

#### **(Earle Brown Elementary School 2007)**

Everything is Going to Be Alright in Brooklyn Center Tonight

(Honoring Steven Michael "Chip" Nelson)

Born in Brooklyn Center. Son of a police officer. School Custodian and Classroom Mentor

Koun Cho Ko - I Miss You

(Honoring Khooua Xiong)

Born 1976 in San Quan, Laos. Hmong Refugee from the Vietnam War

### **Crystal, Minnesota**

#### **(Fair School 2006)**

Follow Your Heart

(Honoring Melsande Charles)

Born June 28, 1931 in Los Angeles, California. Grew up in New York City.

Minneapolis Arts Commissioner, Muralist, Clothing Designer & Trauma Survivor

When You Have a Passion

(Honoring Lillian Johnson)

Born July 3, 1950 in Galesburg, Illinois.

School Librarian & Daughter of Immigrants from Canton, China.

To Give of Yourself

(Honoring Gary & Mary Sampson)

Mary Jean Sampson born in 1935. Gary Sampson born in 1934.  
Minnesota Couple, Descendants of Polish Immigrants.

In a Loving Family  
(Honoring Valerie Valme)  
Born in Kngston, Jamaica, July 2, 1951.  
Fashion Designer from Jamaica.

What Will Become of New Orleans Town  
(Honoring Shirley Washington)  
Born December 19, 1929 in New Orleans.  
New Orleans Ninth Ward Commissioner & Hurricane Katrina Survivor.

**(Fair School 2007)**

Okinawa  
(Honoring Naomi Goedert)  
Born April 1966 in Okinawa, Japan.  
Keeper of Okinawan Traditions & Bridge Builder for Peace.

You Are So Very Blessed & Lucky  
(Honoring Beverly Jackson)  
Born June 21, 1928  
African American Foster Parent & Mentor

When I First Came to America  
(Honoring Maria Olson)  
Born March 25, 1966 in Mexico City  
Airline Employee & Immigrant from Mexico

Sliding Down On Coconut Leaves  
(Honoring Kelly Peniata)  
Born in Western Samoa around 1950.  
Vietnam Veteran & Immigrant from Samoa.

**(Fair School 2008)**

Don't Judge a Book By It's Cover  
(Honoring Carrie D'Andrea)  
Born May 1940.  
Father Ansel Keys invented K Rations. University of Minnesota Graduate. Child Psychologist.

Cameroon, West Africa  
(Honoring Paul Besseck)  
Born in Cameroon April 1967.  
Winona State Graduate. Worked for the Dayton Hudson Corporation.

Stand Up for What You Feel is Right

(Honoring Naima Richmond)

Born August 20, 1932 in Georgia.

Went to a segregated school. Went to the same school as Dr. Martin Luther King. Moved to Minneapolis in 1952. Organized hot lunch program for children in North Minneapolis schools.

Always Remember

(Honoring Minnie Steele)

Born 1945 in Monroe, Louisiana.

Grew up in a blended family. Proud mother & University of Minnesota graduate.

**(Fair School 2009)**

I'm a Family Man

(Honoring Tom Amundson)

Born August 14, 1941 in Northfield, Minnesota.

Norwegian-German ancestry. Father fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Construction worker.

You Have Nothing to Lose

(Honoring Butch Clayton)

Born 1941 in North Minneapolis.

Father was a Police Officer. 1962 University of Minnesota Graduate. Newspaper Reporter.

I Want To Thank-You All

(Honoring Renee Tasaka)

Born August 5, 1932 in Hawaii.

Parents born in Japan. Nurse. Volunteer assisting refugees and displaced people.

To Get to the Other Side

(Honoring John Wills)

Born July 18, 1935.

Joined Peace Corp and worked in Kenya. Columbia University Graduate. Feed My Starving Children Volunteer.

**Columbia Heights, Minnesota**

**(North Park 2007)**

It's a Crime

(Honoring Russell Craig Gary)

Born July 31, 1959 in Minneapolis

NFL Football Player & Youth Worker

There's No Excuses

(Honoring Don Kudluboy)  
Born December 20, 1947 in St. Paul.  
Swede Hollow Resident, Mentor & Psychoilologist

Education, Education  
(Honoring Jo-Anne Student)  
Born September 8, 1936. Long-time Columbia Heights Resident & Community Volunteer

### **(North Park 2008)**

I Want To Tell You About The Strength Inside  
(Honoring Mrs. Barbara Davis White)  
Born June 1954 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
Mother World War II Jewish Refugee. Father African American descendent from those enslaved.  
Degree in Mortuary Science. Servant Leader.

Life Was Simpler Way Back When  
(Honoring Grace Wigger)  
Born 1922 in Wahpeton, North Dakota.  
Shares stories of life in the early days.

### **(Valley View Elementary 2009)**

Dream, Dream, Dream  
(Honoring Chong Kou Vang)  
Born 1950 in Laos.  
Hmong Refugee.

Dzien Dobre, Good Morning  
(Honoring Fran Toler)  
Born in Poland.  
Immigrant. Worked for a telephone company. Volunteers to assist Sister City in Poland called Lomianki.

You Learn To Love Your Neighbor  
(Honoring Malcolm Watson)  
Born April 1927  
Shared stories about the Great Depression and World War II. Navy Veteran. Served in the Pacific.  
Went to college on the G.I. Bill. City Manager of Columbia Heights.

### **Richfield, Minnesota**

#### **(Richfield Middle School 2007)**

In These Times We're Living Now  
(Honoring Emily Day)

Born October 20, 1913 in Chicago  
Settlement House Director, Richfield Historian & Nature Center Volunteer

To Live the Life of Their Dreams  
(Honoring Francisco Mendez Diaz)  
Born in Puerto Escondido, Mexico  
Steel Worker, Medical Student & Navy Veteran from Mexico

Love Them Like It Was Your Last Day  
(Honoring Harry Jenkins)  
Born December 19, 1962 in Chicago  
Ex-Gang Member & School Security Guard from Chicago

**(Richfield Middle School 2008)**

Do What You Need To Do For Family  
(Honoring Angela Wedgeworth)  
Born January 29, 1961, in Richfield, Minnesota.  
Works as EMT.

The Most Important One Is Your Last  
(Honoring Juan Perona)  
Born in Madrid, Spain. Army Veteran. Factory Worker. Immigrant.

Long Before The War Began  
(Honoring Mohammed Barkhale)  
Born 1931 in Mogadishu, Somalia.  
Refugee & Devout Muslim.

**(Richfield Middle School 2009)**

Anything In The Whole Wide World  
(Honoring Sandy Belkengren)  
Born in Richfield. Daughter of a Police Officer. Teacher.

In The Worst of Things There Is Some Good  
(Honoring Dr. M. Eprevel Law)  
Born August 19, 1943, in South Chicago.  
Father German-Irish-Israeli Jew. Mother African-American. PHD in Entomology.  
Post-Doctoral work in Theology.

I Don't Feel Bad About Demanding Respect  
(Honoring Edwina Garcia)  
Born December 8 over seventy years ago in Clovis, New Mexico.  
First Elected Latino in Minnesota Legislature.



## **St. Anthony, Minnesota**

### **(Wilshire Park Elementary 2008)**

Do The Best You Can

(Honoring Howard Hoganson)

Born February 25, 1922, in the Red River Valley.

Navy Veteran. Volunteer for Bridge Builders.

Praise, Praise, Praise

(Honoring Jed Hamoud)

Born on the border of Lebanon & Syria.

Bedouin, or nomad, family. Father was blind. Sheep herder. Grew up in orphanage. Married a missionary from Wisconsin. Worked for General Electric. Degree in Information Technology.

I've Traveled the Whole Wide World Around

(Honoring Bill Sauer)

Went to a two-room schoolhouse. North Pole Explorer with Paul Schurke. Been to the Arctic seven times. Woodworker. Pilot.

Betty, Betty Toy

(Honoring Betty Toy)

Born September 1937 in China.

Immigrant. Volunteer. Mentor.

### **(Wilshire Park Elementary 2009)**

Nigeria, West Africa

(Honoring Lilian Abdul)

Born May 13, 1957, in Nigeria.

Immigrant. Catholic. Accountant. Mother.

To Start Each Day with A Smile

(Honoring George Marks)

Born March 29, 1934.

Graduate from University of Minnesota. Physics Teacher. City Councilman for 20 years. Worked for the Sperry Corporation.

I Love You

(Honoring Mary Medved)

Born 1942, in the wilderness of Golden Valley, Minnesota.

St. Kate's Graduate. Teacher. PTA President.

To Do What I Can To Help

(Honoring Mushwamba "Suzanne" Muvundamina)

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Worked with the Red Cross. Nurse. Immigrant.



Several years ago, brilliant artist and gifted musician Larry Long brought his program Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song to our school through the West Metro Education Program (WMEP).

Larry and the students record and expand upon the stories of community elders. These stories are then translated into student choreography and music. Many hours are spent in the preparation. The final result is an evening showcase for hundreds from our community who come out to see their children perform. The participating audience soon discovers that they have learned and been personally uplifted by the experience as they hear their children talk, sing, and dance in honor of their elders.

The presentation celebrates the chosen elders who, through their own personal stories, teach all of us about the beauty and the purposeful life found in the midst of difficulty, hard work and perseverance.

Each and every one of us searches for meaning and purpose in our lives. All too often we are so busy with our own fast paced daily existence that we fail to see the beautiful journey we are actually on. It is through these stories that we can understand and put into perspective our shortcomings, our detours and our frustrations. It is through these stories that we can see more clearly our own developing stories of accomplishment, survival and hope.

Larry Long's Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song program has resurrected a culturally lost art. Our elders have always taught us important lessons about life and our purpose in this world. Somehow modern society has forgotten how to take the time to listen.

In the first paragraph of *The Road Less Traveled*, Scott Peck wrote "Life is difficult; it always has been and always will be." The Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song program helps us to learn more about our life by discovering how the elders handled their lives.

At the beginning of each year's project, Larry Long embarks on a lesson in self-esteem building as he teaches his new learners the art and importance of social skills like shaking a hand or looking a person in the eye when talking. He emphasizes the importance of questions as a mechanism of allowing the elder to speak freely. In doing so, asking questions of the elder prompts the students to inquire and share about their own lives and that of their peers.

Through the elder interview process, I was overwhelmed to hear students ask real live personal questions. For example:

- A student whose family struggles with poverty asked, "How did you have enough money if you only made two cents each selling magazines?"
- A student who lost his father in Iraq asked, "How did you feel when your friends died?"
- A student whose family struggles with prejudice and racism asked, "Did you ever like the Japanese after the war?"
- A student whose parents are divorced and fighting asked, "How did you handle the hard times in your life?"
- A student whose parents have been fighting all of his life asked, "Do you really love your wife after sixty-one years of being married?"
- A student with autism asked, "Did anyone ever make fun of you because you were different?"

As in our budding International Baccalaureate program, Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song encourages students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their different lives and perspectives, can also be right. The program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural and intracultural understanding and respect.

Above all, it teaches us all to "Work Towards the Positive," "Live your Passion," and remember that, "Any good that I may do, Let me do it now."

Dr. Richard A. Erickson | School Social Worker  
Cedar Manor Intermediate Center | St. Louis Park, Minnesota

