



THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

THE GREEN LAKE
FOUNDATION

Volume 2, Number 1

Green Lake Foundation

2017 Q1

“God save the foundation!” (Shakespeare)

Romance at the Rose Bowl

In the summer of 1940, Genevieve Bradley was enrolled in the Union College business program when the department head left for other employment. With no teacher, the program closed. What should Genevieve do?

Genevieve visited friends in California, among them Alvin Sonnenberg. Genevieve knew the Sonnenberg family from their days at College View Academy and Union College. She studied French with Alvin’s sister, Lydia, in Academy.

In fact, Lydia had secretly sent a photo of Genevieve to Alvin. Alvin showed the picture to his best friend and medical school classmate, Paul Johnson, a Seattle native, and told him “This is the girl you are going to marry.”

On the California trip, Genevieve saw Paul lead the Sabbath School song service at the White Memorial Church. That afternoon Paul joined the carload of friends on an outing. Later that week, the group played miniature golf and heard Aimee Semple McPherson preach. Paul wanted to take Genevieve to the Cocoanut Grove Club where he and his brother had performed when they were professional musicians, but instead he and Genevieve ended up at a drugstore drinking milkshakes.

Back home in Lincoln, Genevieve enrolled in the business program at the University of Nebraska. The

Nebraska Cornhuskers had a great season that fall (8-1) and were invited to play in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Lincoln was crazy with excitement. The *Lincoln Star* reported that “U of N students were almost hysterical” in celebrations that lasted for 24 hours. They danced in the streets and stormed the state capitol, demanding that the



governor lead them in singing the school song, “There Is No Place Like Nebraska.”

Genevieve

remembers cancelled classes and the December dancing in the streets. Alas, she and a Union College friend wanted to join the celebration but they didn’t know how to dance.

Alvin Sonnenberg wrote to Genevieve urging her to join two carloads of Union College friends going to Pasadena for the New Years’ Day game in 1941. They drove the 1,500 miles “night and day” without stopping. Genevieve recalls: “The trip was awful, but we were young.”

Genevieve and Paul attended the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl game. Not a football fan, she still found it exciting. She saw Paul every evening. This time they visited the Cocoanut Grove. Before she left for Lincoln, Paul gave her his medical school class key “to remember him by.” She wore the key as a brooch.

Paul phoned Genevieve after she returned to Lincoln—an extravagant thing for a med student on a tight budget. She was so excited she could hardly talk. They stayed in contact.

After medical school graduation in 1941, Paul accompanied Sonnenberg to Lincoln for Sonnenberg’s wedding. Paul partially financed his trip by giving blood. In fact, Genevieve reports today that she found him “very thin”.

Paul and Genevieve continued the courtship that summer. Eventually Genevieve’s outspoken grandmother



Test Your Knowledge



Most new money donated to The Green Lake Foundation each year is:

- A. Spent on musical instruments.
- B. For elevator maintenance.
- C. Invested for long-term projects and needs.
- D. Spent for pizza.

Answer on Page 2

(Continued on Page 2)

Continued from Page 1

Romance at the Rose Bowl



confronted him, “You’ve been here quite awhile. What are your intentions?”

Paul proposed before he left for Seattle to begin his one-year internship at Seattle General

Hospital. The wedding was planned for the next summer since the internship stipend of \$30 per month was pretty sparse.

Genevieve graduated in the summer of 1941, having combined her business economics coursework with a B. S. in Education, and she began work for Christian Record Services for the Blind in Lincoln. In December 1941, she took the train to Seattle to meet Paul’s family. America had just entered the war and tensions ran high around Puget Sound. Seattle, home to Boeing, had a nightly blackout.

With Paul likely to be drafted, they decided to marry sooner rather than later, applying for a marriage license on January 3, 1942.

Genevieve returned home and quit her job. Friends hosted wedding showers. She bought a large trunk, packed her things, and made the trip back to Seattle. Paul and

Genevieve

were married in the home of Paul’s uncle and aunt on January 30, 1942.

Nebraska lost to Stanford, 13 to 21, on January 1, 1941. But Genevieve and Paul saw only victory. That Rose Bowl game sparked a beautiful romance that lasted throughout their 63-year marriage.

— Dana Waters ✧



Paul and Genevieve Johnson on their wedding day.

Capital Campaign Push in 2016

The fourth quarter of 2016 saw an active push for the Green Lake Church capital campaign, with the total amount raised and pledged surpassing the \$400,000 mark.

As of January 31, 2017, \$345,390 in cash was received, with \$64,750 in outstanding pledges. Together these sums total \$410,140.

The campaign targeted two needs: the Green Lake House and Pastoral Ministries. Contributors were given options to contribute to either of these ministries or to both. The breakdown of the funding yields \$168,681 (compared to the goal of \$150,000) for the Green Lake House Fund, and \$241,459 (compared to the goal of \$350,000) for the Pastoral Ministries Fund.

Campaign co-chairs Amy Worrell-Kneller and Ken Fairchild said: “We have not reached our full goal, so some members and friends may wish to continue to contribute until the conclusion of the formal campaign. We welcome new support and will continue to do updates on new contributions.” A list of contributors was published in the Green Lake Church newsletter.

Some have made pledges for 2017 and 2018. Those who made pledges will be reminded of their commitments in December of 2017 and 2018. The campaign will continue through December 31, 2018.

The 2016 push was highlighted by a strong effort in the children’s divisions, spearheaded by the indefatigable Shirley Mehrer. Pastor John McLarty’s dog, Rexi, even made an appearance during a children’s story and “Rexi banks” were distributed throughout the church children’s divisions.

The children saved their coins and returned their banks at the end of 2016, rattling with coins. Shirley Mehrer supplied a mechanical coin-counting machine to make the task of counting the coins easier. The children donated more than \$3,100 of the campaign total as of the end of January 2017.

We continue to be impressed by the generosity of the congregation. Your gifts have put us in a much stronger financial position and provide us with greater flexibility in managing both the Green Lake house and the needs of the pastoral ministries. We want to thank you for your dedication and on-going support. ✧

Test Your Knowledge Answer: C – Invested for long-term projects and needs. It is true that at some board meetings of the Foundation the board members eat pizza. But they pay for the pizza out of their own pockets, not from Foundation funds. The purpose of the Foundation is to build financial resources for the church’s success, now and for future decades and generations. It is also a way to undertake major current projects that will equip the church for the programs and activities to meet its mission and fulfill its ministries. ✧

A Conversation with Genevieve Johnson

Genevieve Johnson (with Karen Johnson Fasano) responded to Ken Walters' questions. Edited for length.

You are from the Midwest, the heart of America. What is your hometown?

The farm country of northern Missouri, but I consider College View, Nebraska my hometown.

Were your parents Adventists?

My Mom and Dad met at Union College and were married there. My mother was always a strong Adventist. Dad farmed seven days a week and did not attend church, but was not hostile to it.

Did you attend church school and academy?

I attended church school in the 7th and 8th grade. I went to academy and have good memories because of the good preparation it gave me for college.

You attended Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Yes, I studied business and economics and finished all the prerequisites and lower-division courses. But the major professor in business left Union College, so I transferred to the University of Nebraska for the last 1½ years, graduating in 1941.

When did Paul Johnson enter your life?

The University of Nebraska football team went to the 1941 Rose Bowl and I went out to Los Angeles with some Union College friends. I met Paul through a mutual friend, Alvin Sonnenberg, who was in Paul's medical school class. We instantly hit it off, and we dated long distance until we both graduated. Paul came back to Nebraska with Alvin to visit, and he proposed.

Remind us where Paul was from.

Paul grew up in Medina, Washington, and attended Garfield High School. He took the ferry across Lake Washington, rode a cable car, and walked a mile uphill to school.

Paul achieved not only Seattle medical fame but Seattle media fame. How?

One of his patients, Jack Morton, was a local disc jockey on KVI and asked him to do a "doctor segment" on his show. Paul talked about medical issues, but was told he needed to lighten it up. So he coupled good medical information with some light-hearted banter with Jack and some jokes. It was very popular.

Do I recall correctly that the show had an introductory musical jingle?

Yes. Paul asked Paul Jr. to write and produce a jingle. Sung to the tune of Bluesette, the lyrics were:

Hernias, hemorrhoids, and broken bones,
Post-nasal drip and kidney stones,
Menstrual cramps and constipation, too,
These things in life can make you blue,
Refrain: So come with your medical questions now—
with Morton and Dr. Paul!

The show was a howling success! He did this at KVI with Jack Morton, then went to KIRO with Jim French, sponsored by the King County Medical Society.

When did you and Paul come to Seattle?

After a residency in Sonoma County, California, and service in the Coast Guard and Navy. A surgeon in Seattle invited Paul to join his practice.

When we think of the Johnson family, we think of the

formidable musical talents of Karen and Paul Jr. Where did those musical genes come from?

Paul Sr. began violin lessons at age 5, along with his brother. After high school, the family needed to earn some money. The godmother to Bing Crosby met them in Medina and gave them a letter of introduction to Bing Crosby, who contacted his manager. He auditioned them and got them their first job. They became "The Johnson Brothers" and had good success playing with various bands, traveling the circuit as a violin duo.

When and why did Paul transition to a medical career?

The Johnson boys decided not to make music their lifetime profession. They had an aunt and uncle, Arnold and Lettie Maye Johnson, who facilitated their admission to Walla Walla College for pre-med (Arnold was a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists). Arnold and Lettie Maye did not have children of their own; they helped with tuition clear through medical school.

You and Paul were pillars of Seattle Central Church before you came over to Green Lake Church.

We were not "recruited" to Green Lake Church, but Uncle Arnold and Aunt Lettie Maye were good friends of the Graumans. Arnold Johnson was a perennial elder of the Green Lake Church, and Lettie Maye always invited anyone who needed lunch to their home—students and visitors—sometimes having as many as 30 people on a weekly basis. They were very welcoming to members and visitors alike—well



loved and very active in the church on all levels in the early years. Arnold was a general physician in the North End of Seattle with a very large practice. He died suddenly of a heart attack at age 57, and Lettie Maye moved away from the Seattle area shortly after.

You were very involved in activities at Seattle Junior Academy.

I was always active in the activities at Seattle Junior Academy. Pat Young and I were "Home and School" leaders while our kids were attending. We even painted one of the classrooms!

John and Mary White—John was on the UW Huskies crew team, which became the 1936 Olympic championship crew in Berlin—were close friends of the Johnson family.

We met the Whites at Seattle Central Church, where John's wife, Mary, joined the choir when Paul was the choir director. We shared many good times with the Whites and two other couples who became very close—the Weavers and the Theodores.

The Helmersens, Hal and Hanna, were special friends.

They were a welcome and very active addition to the church. Hal was instrumental in bringing Magne Fuglheim to Green Lake Church as the pastor when the church was without a pastor. Mildred Jensen and I worked as Magne's secretary, in a volunteer capacity.

Continued on Page 4

Green Lake Foundation Board

Alvin L. Kwiram, President
Rhona Kwiram, Vice President
Ken Walters, Secretary
Ken Case
Hayden Hamilton (Associate)
Claire Knierim
John McLarty
Don Mehrer
George Neiswanger
Chris Oster
Amy Worrell-Kneller

The Green Lake Foundation
newsletter is published quarterly.

© 2017 Green Lake Foundation

Donations to the Foundation:
[https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/
About.aspx](https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/About.aspx)

Church History Quiz

True or False:

1. Since funds were in short supply right after World War II, the first church organ at Green Lake was an electronic organ. Five years later a pipe organ was purchased.
2. Green Lake's first pastor, George Unterseher, was recruited from the General Conference.
3. Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Grauman donated the funds for the window "Jesus and the Children."
4. Representative Henry Jackson (who later became U.S. Senator Jackson) helped get the large wooden beams, now visible in the church ceiling, since post-war construction materials were scarce.
5. Original donors for the windows on the sides of the sanctuary had their names displayed on a little plate next to the window they had financed. These plates were later removed.
6. For the first three years of Green Lake Church's operation, Sabbath School was held in the sanctuary.
7. The famous organist Virgil Fox performed an inaugural organ concert in 1947 upon the opening of the church.

Answers: 1.F; 2.F; 3.T; 4.T; 5.T;
6.F; 7.F.

A Conversation with Genevieve Johnson, Continued from Page 3

Medical doctors were major leaders in Green Lake's first decades. How did they get along?

The doctors in the church got along famously because we were all friends, and we were never listed as "Doctors" in the church. There didn't seem to be any competition between us. Maybe just serendipity ... or luck because of the personalities.

The Green Lake Church doctors even wanted to open a "free clinic" for poor people.

They forged a plan in the 1940s to open a free clinic on Sabbath in the Central Area. A meeting was held at Green Lake Church to discuss this plan with the bigwigs from the Washington Conference, and a very funny incident took place that just has to be mentioned. The Washington Conference president's name was Elder Dasher. Dr. Ching was addressing the meeting and, for a moment, forgot the name of the conference president. He turned to Paul and in a very loud whisper he asked, "Paul, what's that reindeer's name?" All in attendance chuckled loudly.

Paul led the campaign to raise funds to build the church's addition, known as the Education Wing.

Paul was chairman of the committee. Also Drs. Grauman, Ching, and others. Katie Jo Johnson [not a relative] was in charge and responsible for planning the garden and patio along the side entrance.

Green Lake had a reputation of being "elitist" or "controversial." Why?

Some thought the stained glass windows were "Catholic-looking". And the divided pulpit was controversial. But people were drawn to the church because of its openness, inclusion, architecture, and musical excellence. A few others saw things as elitist. Others in the churches around the conference thought Green Lake was unfriendly, with "liberal" doctrines. Many of our pastors weathered those storms and improved on the image and reputation, but it wasn't always that way.

Paul taught a popular Sabbath School class with Lyle Jensen. How did their collaboration develop?

Paul Sr. had attended Walla Walla College with Lyle and Mildred Jensen and had a long friendship with them. Paul always respected Lyle's intellect and said he helped pull him through chemistry at Walla Walla College pre-med. After Paul and Lyle had bouts with cancer, they felt that sharing a class would be less stressful for both of them. It was very popular and drew many people.

You had a lower-profile role than Paul at Green Lake, but you were very active, too.

I served in the Cradle Roll Division when I joined Green Lake since I had done that at Central Church. I co-led with Sylvia Jepson. We found that there were too many children to facilitate a proper program because there were four baby beds in the Cradle Roll room and the mothers would just accompany them while they slept and would chat with each other. We solved the problem by moving the babies to the mothers' room in the balcony. Through the years, I taught in all of the children's divisions.

Let's not forget the "Dorcas Society."

I was a Dorcas leader. With Mildred Jensen, we instituted a "Dorcas Visiting Day" program. Two church ladies would go and meet whatever temporal needs someone had—food, supplies, baby food. I remember one Sabbath someone called the church and said that they were in dire need of diapers, baby food, and so on. It was an emergency. Paul and I went out after church, bought the supplies, and delivered them to the motel where the folks were desperate. The Dorcas Society tried to meet requests for immediate needs, not just for visiting people for social needs.

Early Green Lake members say that the Dorcas ministry helped many who were in dire straits.

This ministry came to an end when women began to work out of the home and "Dorcas" died. I also served as head deaconess, and was involved for years in many showers, potlucks, and special events for members.

A long list of service indeed. We are so very grateful for your energy and dedication over many years. ✧