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## THE MEANING OF THE WORD ‘COURAGEOUS.’

*After the massacre of Israeli athletes during the 1972 Olympics, UWP was invited to reunite the athletes. Recently, Cast A 2015 visited the site of the 1972 Olympic Village and learned about that important part of UWP’s legacy.*

The Munich Olympics was a rollercoaster of emotions for Cast B in 1972. As an 18-year-old cast member from Louisville, Kentucky, I was part of the group that had been invited to perform for the Olympic athletes. UWP was the only international group there.

It was one day after the Memorial Service for the Israeli athletes and coaches who had, just a few days before, been taken hostage and murdered by Palestinian terrorists. Jesse Owens, 1936 Olympic champion runner and eventual member of UWP’s Board of Directors, arranged to have UWP come into the Olympic Village and help raise the morale of the athletes. We’d been given permission to walk around the area and talk to the athletes to promote our show which took place that night in the village theater. My cast mate, Paula, and I met a pole vault athlete from France. Through my poor French and his poor English the conversation eventually turned to the tragedy that had struck only a few days earlier, and we asked him his feelings about what had happened.

His comment to us in his strong French accent was, “Oh, they were very courageous!” Not knowing who he meant or what he was referring to, and thinking the use of the word ‘courageous’ couldn’t possibly mean the same thing in French as it does in English, we asked him, “Who do you mean?”

Immediately he replied very emphatically “Oh, the Palestinians.”

Paula and I interpreted this to mean that he felt that the Palestinians were very courageous to stand up for what they believed in. We were in shock. We could not believe what we were hearing. That’s when he told us his mother was very proud Palestinian Shiite Lebanese. Once I heard that, I felt I had to let him know my background too. “Well, the terrorists missed some. I’m Jewish and there are six more in my group,” I said, referring to my fellow UWP cast mates.

**Continued on page eight.**



*Members of Cast A 2015 pose in Olympic Village from the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.*

# UNRAVELING THE TRAVELING SHIRT

*UWP's warehouse is home to many show costumes, each with its own story.*

Imagine her surprise when an alumna from Cast D 1984 received a call from the UWP headquarters in Denver about the costume she wore for her year on tour! It has been stored in the UWP corporate office for more than 30 years.

Barb Savold Goodman ('84D), of New York, was delighted to hear that part of her show costume is intact and in good shape after all these years. As the incoming students didn't have costumes, she and her fellow cast mates were all requested to return their costumes after the tour was complete. Reluctantly they did, many of them writing permanent notes written in the collar or waistband about what the outfit meant to them. They even took photographs placing the costumes in a box to send to the next cast. That cast in 1985 did end up with their own costumes, but Cast D 1984 always wondered what happened to theirs.

Barb sang and danced her way through the United States, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and Canada, and was chosen to sing "Sometimes You Never Know" in many shows and "My Song" occasionally. One of her favorite aspects of the show was hearing the incredible talent of cast members Lindsay McGregor, Mary Pat Hoffman and Dennis Corcoran, to name a few. The show and its songs meant so much to Barb. Growing up as a cynical and "tough" New Yorker, Barb was surprised at how touched audiences were after seeing a UWP show. The year-long experience gave her insight into the world outside of New York City, and a refreshing look at how UWP could positively affect people in cities large and small.

Her cast has remained close, and more than 30 attended the UWP International Alumni Association (UWP/IAA) alumni gathering in Tucson last year to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. They had such fun that they have planned to meet in Sweden in June to rekindle friendships and maintain their cast closeness. One of her favorite memories was near the end of her tour and some advice given by a cast mate's father. She met Sue Boylan's dad, and he

asked her what she was going to do after the tour ended. Barb wasn't quite sure which direction she wanted to go after UWP, so she answered truthfully and gave her typical "I don't know" answer. Mr. Boylan advised her to come up with a different answer – something that was interesting and exciting, so that she didn't appear without plans. So, Barb started saying, "I'm going to be a flight attendant!" She ended up interviewing with airline TWA after her UWP tour, and became a flight attendant, a career she had never thought about, or even considered. She worked for TWA for 10 years and even met her husband on a flight. That is the power of positive thinking!

*Written by Amy Jordan Russ ('76B). Amy's polyester orange dress survived her year-long tour and is often used as dress-up clothing by her nieces.*



*Barb (left) poses with guests at a UWP show in the very show costume where she wrote a message to future casts.*



*UWP casts used to have specific attire to wear for certain occasions. Above, Barb (center) and her cast mates are wearing stylish argyle vests before a community service activity.*

## THE FURTHER WE REACH OUT

*UWP students are able to form bonds, no matter the language.*

Cast A 2015 is home to young adults from all walks of life and a variety of cultures. Something we may take for granted is the ability to communicate in our native language. It can be challenging to find the purest form of



connection and representation of self with a language that is not as familiar to you as your own. This is a challenge that so many of our students face and learn to overcome throughout their journey with UWP which encourages students to truly be themselves all over the world and asks students to go outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves daily.

As we travel so far from home and so far from our native cultures and languages, it is easy to feel homesick. We are homesick for our family, our friends, familiar items, and for a culture and language to which we are accustomed. During these past few weeks in Switzerland and Germany, Cast A 2015 has been doing a lot of work volunteering with different organizations that work with refugees from around the world who have to Europe to start new lives. Many come from countries full of political turmoil, economic upheaval,

and histories of violence or oppression. At these service sites a few of our participants got the chance to get to utilize their native languages to really connect with and get to know some of these refugees. Merry Kebede, one of our cast members from Ethiopia, had a chance to connect with a refugee woman in her native language of Amharic during a community action project in Switzerland. Senait, a woman in her mid-twenties, fled her home of Eritrea, an independent nation that was once part of Ethiopia. Senait shared with Merry the struggles she has had to overcome. Merry was able to speak in her native language for the first time since her UWP journey began, and learned about Senait's journey. Senait fled her country to avoid forced military service working for an oppressive and corrupt government. She journeyed first to Sudan and then to Yemen, where she risked paying traffickers up to \$2,000 to transport her—pregnant at the time—and her husband to Italy. Her husband was captured by Italian police but Senait was able to flee and made it to Switzerland. Her child is now over a year old and she is trying to rebuild her life the best she can. Merry was shocked to hear Senait's story. She returned the next day to continue the conversation. She was surprised to meet some young Somali men who also spoke her native language. *Continued on page seven.*



1965

# 50<sup>th</sup> Up with People®

2015

On Saturday, April 25th, 2015 over 400 UWP supporters gathered together at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center to celebrate the organization's 50th Anniversary. Presented by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in association with Elite Brands, alumni, host families, sponsors, current students, and UWP families and friends bid on auction items and raised their paddles in support of the future of the program. By the end of the night, more than \$307000 was raised so that UWP can positively impact communities—specifically youth—around the world for the next fifty years. Thank you to all who attended the event. Stay tuned for more information on next year's UWP Gala!



*Nathan Kafka ('00C) bids on one of the silent auction items.*



*Rob Prytherch ('92A) created an inspiring vignette celebrating UWP's prolific history.*



*Current UWP Road Staff member, Nicole Magloire ('11B) sings a song from UWP's newest show The Journey.*



*From left to right: Gala Host Committee member Jill Pedicord Peterson ('82B) and John Peterson pose with Gala Host Committee member Karen Isaak Valdez ('78A) and Tom Valdez.*



*Global Leaders Circle members Richard ('87E) and Kimberly (Clark) Matteson ('83A) attend UWP's 50th Anniversary Gala.*



*Selfies? UWP alumni practically invented the concept.*



*UWP alumni enjoyed reconnecting with one another at the fourth annual Gala.*



*UWP Dance Captain Alicen Schade ('14B) dances at the UWP Gala.*



*Terry Adams ('81A) speaks at his first UWP Gala as the Vice President of Advancement.*



*UWP cast member, Asmita Dhital from Nepal, gives a heartfelt message to Gala attendees. Earlier that day, her country was devastated by massive earthquakes.*



*Carol Nichols ('76E) and Darlene Bessey ('77C) attended UWP's fourth annual Gala together.*



*Patricia (Berry) Glassner ('69B) embraces Betty (Wilkes) Belk, wife of UWP founder J. Blanton Belk.*



*UWP's President and CEO, Dale Penny ('71A), speaks to the crowd of more than 450 supporters.*



*Alumni from around the world came together in support of UWP and its next fifty years.*



*UWP is grateful to Bruce ('73B) and Linda (Lowe) Erley ('78E) chairing Gala Host Committee for the second year in a row.*



*UWP supporters—young and old—gave in honor of the organizations next fifty years.*



*UWP Board Member Carey Ford ('83C) (left) smiles with Lindsay (McGregor) Adams ('84D).*



*Channel 9 News Meteorologist, Belen De Leon, emceed the event for the second year.*



*UWP Founder J. Blanton Belk and his wife, Betty, pose with Marcee and Chris ('81C) Mygatt.*

# A FAMILY FOR A LIFETIME

*A Kiwanis member and his wife hosted two Cast A 2015 participants, forever changing their lives.*

In everyone's life, a few events occur that can have a profound effect and even change your life like getting married, the birth of child or grandchild, the first big job or even retiring. Most of the time you see these events coming and can even anticipate the change. Occasionally, if you are lucky, life will sneak up and change you in ways you never expected. For my wife, Debbi, and I, hosting two beautiful young women from a UWP was one of those life-changing events!

As the chairman of California-Nevada-Hawaii Districts 100<sup>th</sup> Kiwanis Celebration, I had the pleasure of working with staff members from UWP—a Kiwanis promotional partner— over a nine month period that culminated with cast of over 100 young men and women coming to the Los Angeles/Orange County area for one week. After nine months of living UWP and preparing for their benefit concert, I thought we were prepared for our experience as host family. I was wrong!

The minute we met our cast kids we could sense this was going to be special week. The personalities of the two young women we hosted fit perfectly in our family. From the first night of being perfect strangers to last night of preparing our “daughters” for their next adventure, the experience and transition was miraculous.

UWP does a very good job of screening future cast members. They have had 50 years of experience. While many are talented singers, dancers, and musicians, there is no audition process. Cast members are chosen for their desire to bring the people of the world together through service, education and music. Many of the cast members are college graduates who tour before they either start grad school or embark on the rest of their lives. Some are actually continuing their college education through a study abroad program while others are touring before they start college.

Host families are backbone of the UWP experience for these cast members. Each week cast members stay with a different family in a different city in the United States, Mexico and Europe. They get to experience the uniqueness of the new cities, new regions or a new country each week. While I can only imagine the impact of staying with a new host family has on these fabulous young men and women, what the host families receive from the UWP cast members is 100 times greater than we give!

Kiwanis and UWP a perfect fit! We have the same goals and values...well, except for the singing part. Be the first person in your area to say **YES** to becoming a host family! I can promise you hosting a cast members in your home will be one the best experiences of your life. It will change you in ways you never expected!

*Written by Michael J. Field, a Region 3 Trustee and Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Celebration for Kiwanis International of the Cal-Nev-HA District, and proud UWP host family.*



*Michael Fields (right) and his wife, Debbi (left) hosted two students from Cast A 2015: Marcela from Costa Rica and Fia from the United States.*

## THE FURTHER WE REACH OUT continued...

Both Senait and the Somalian men were forced out of their homes and torn from their cultures. They are rarely able to communicate in their native language and hardly understand English. "In UWP, we cry when we get tired or uncomfortable, but these people are so happy just to get here," said Merry. This experience really impacted her and she was able to share these thoughts with the cast. When two of the Somalian refugees came to the UWP show, Merry had a hard time describing her feelings. These people had fled for their lives and had to sacrifice so much of their culture and identity just for the chance to start over. For some, it's difficult to feel proud of their culture and heritage. Following the show, the refugees came up to her and described to her how inspired they were to see her smiling in her native Ethiopian clothing, proudly representing her culture.

These experiences are so amazingly valuable to Cast A 2015 and remind us why UWP brings together people from around the world to be part of our cast. Different languages and cultures come together to form a family with an unbreakable bond to change the world and spread the message of hope and progress through every form of communication possible. We have impacted these people and they have impacted us in return. We WILL continue to make these connections every day.

*Written by Fia Binford, a Cast A 2015 student from the United States. Cast A 2015's tour ended on June 2nd in Germany.*



*Merry (right) smiles with United States participant, Alejandro, during a community action project in Mexico.*

## 50th Anniversary merchandise is now available!

*New merchandise can  
now be found in our  
online store!*

*The Journey is now available on iTunes, Amazon mp3, Spotify,  
and other music streaming providers.*



[store.upwithpeople.org](http://store.upwithpeople.org)

## THE MEANING OF THE WORLD 'COURAGEOUS' continued...

He told me I was different and I replied, "No, I'm not different and neither are you." Then I took his wrist in my hand and raised it between us. "You have skin on your bones and so do I," I pointed out. Then I pointed to his chest and



*The 1972 Olympic athletes sway back and forth to UWP music.*

said, "You have a heart beating in your body and so do I. We are all members of the human race living on the face of the earth together. No one has the right to take anyone else's life. Those athletes came here to compete in peace just like you." Then I told him he needed to come to our show. We really didn't know how we would get past this shock and perform. This was Germany. I was Jewish. My mother's cousins had been murdered in the Holocaust. I felt I had to stand up for all those who couldn't before me. We knew we had to do our show and do it for all who needed to hear our message.

We never knew if the pole vault athlete saw us perform. It was a very stiff and cold audience to begin with. However what we saw in the front of the theater soon after the show started was real courage. Keeping in mind that there was a Cold War going on, we saw Russian athletes wearing t-shirts with the abbreviation "CCCP"

which referred to the Soviet Union. Other athletes from countries such as the United States, North Korea, South Africa, Brazil, Cuba, and North Vietnam had their representative country names on their t-shirts.

Yet, without concern, as soon as we started leading our famous conga line off the stage and through the audience, they were all standing and linking arms with each other and swaying to the music of our Belgian drinking song.

They showed no animosity and had no desire to find reasons to hate each other that night!

I looked at Paula near me on stage and we both knew. THIS was the essence of the word 'courageous.' It was the athletes at our show who stood before the world, for tolerance of diversity, all equal at that moment in time.

*Marcie Lipschutz Ward ('72B) was part of the cast that performed in the Olympic Village during the 1972 Olympics and said her cast was very touched by this experience. "The emotion is still raw for some of us," she said.*

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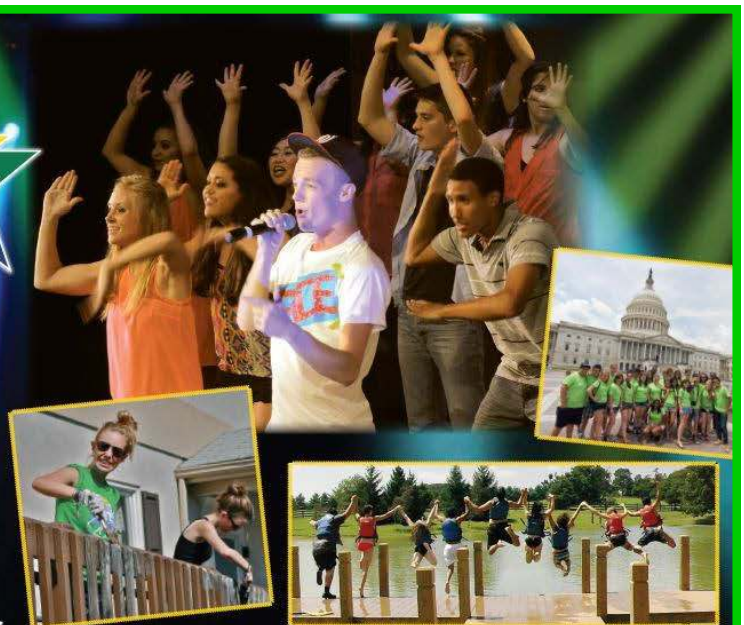
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**DESTINATION: ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

**CELEBRATE 50! REUNION**

**AUGUST 4-9, 2015**



**DESTINATION: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO**

**MEXICO 50<sup>TH</sup> PARTY**

**OCTOBER 17, 2015**



**DESTINATION: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

**EUROPE 50<sup>TH</sup> PARTY**

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**Bring the world into your home!**

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**Denver, CO**

**June 28th – August 3rd 2015**

Interested in becoming a Host Family for our international participants?

Contact Shawna Reed, Host Family Coordinator:  
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UWP offers scholarships to support students every semester. Thanks to your gifts during this past fiscal year, we were able to award many scholarships to deserving students in Cast B 2014 and Cast A 2015.

UWP's scholarship program is made possible through the generous support of individuals and foundations. Every gift has an impact on the life of a student; from \$10 to \$1,000. We depend on your support to run our program. Please help impact more students with your gift!

To make a gift:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Asmita from Nepal, a member of Cast A 2015.

### How did you hear about UWP?

I heard about this program through alumni from Nepal. Most of them who traveled with UWP at some point have been back to their community are serving the people and country.

### You are involved in a great nonprofit in Kathmandu. Tell us about its mission and your role?

Yes, I work for a nonprofit called SAATH. I feel proud and happy to be connected with such an amazing organization that is led by youth and has been serving people in need. The mission of this organization is to build actions and movements to restore socio-economic justice, humanity, peace, and integrity amongst marginalized communities in Nepal. I work there as a program coordinator and radio presenter. I look after our organization's advocacy project called "The Human Face." Through the project, we advocate for different social and global issues, run the radio program, and organize panel discussions amongst youth.

### You were in Denver with other members of Cast A 2015 to celebrate UWP's 50th Anniversary Gala when an earthquake struck Nepal. What was it like to be surrounded by your international family at that time? How are your family and friends doing?

My immediate family is safe as of now. Some friends and their families are struggling. I have realized in times like this—when the nation is going through tragedy—one can

not be content just by knowing one's family is okay. Being in the Gala was an amazing experience for me in different ways. Being a part of such a noble cause which allows participants like me from the other side of the world to participate in this life-changing program was wonderful. I was shattered, scared, hopeless, and lost in the pain of the disaster. But there were people holding me strong and I saw hope in their eyes. When I got lost in fear, they pulled me out of it, stood by my side, and made me realize that I am not alone. They gathered my broken hopes and gave me a whole new belief that things will be better soon.

### What have you learned from your UWP experience?

I believe, once you start the UWP journey, it never ends, it changes. You change the course of the journey, meet more people, chase new dreams, set new goals, and strive to be a better person than you are now. I have learned to learn, relearn, and unlearn. I have learned to understand people, accept the differences, and appreciate life.

**A well-known foundation—that wishes to remain anonymous—has awarded UWP a \$1 million grant.**

**We have already received \$500,000, and will receive the additional \$500,000 with YOUR help! If we can raise \$250,000 by June 30, 2015, it will grant us the additional \$500,000. Help us reach our goal.**

[Give to UWP today!](#)



## CAST B 2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

Make sure you are up-to-date with our current cast. Click [here](#) to find out where Cast B 2015 will be touring!

Denver, Colorado | **Staging & Orientation**

June 28—August 3, 2015

July 29, 2015 | **Cast B 2015 Premiere**

Orlando, Florida | [50th Anniversary Signature Event](#)

August 3—10, 2015

North Fulton County, Georgia

August 10—17, 2015

Gainesville, Georgia

August 17—24, 2015

Statesboro, Georgia

August 24—31, 2015

Melbourne, Florida

August 31—September 7, 2015

Venice, Florida

September 7—14, 2015

Monterrey, Mexico

September 14—September 21, 2015

Mexico

September 21—28, 2015

Mexico

September 28—October 12, 2015

Mexico City, Mexico

October 12—19, 2015

[50th Anniversary Signature Event](#)

Oostende, Belgium

October 19—26, 2015

Antwerp, Belgium

October 26—November 2, 2015

Neuchatel, Switzerland

November 2—9, 2015

Switzerland

November 9—16, 2015

Vaduz, Liechtenstein

November 16—23, 2015

Brussels, Belgium

[50th Anniversary Signature Event](#)

November 23—30, 2015

Rome, Italy

November 30—December 10, 2015

Stay tuned for a special announcement about a unique project called **Portrait for Peace** which will help continue the UWP legacy for the next fifty years!